

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, responding to critics who claim he lacks flexibility in dealing with the Lebanon situation, said Friday Syria is to blame for the continuing impasse over the withdrawal of foreign forces from that country.

His comments on Lebanon suggested he is unimpressed with Syria's stated objections to the Israeli-Lebanese agreement.

He called congressional moves on Lebanon unfortunate and disruptive and said members should never stoop to undermine U.S. vital interests for partisan advantage.

He said he assumed that the positions people took represented U.S. interests as they saw them.

The newspaper said that U.S. economic and military assistance

The official, who did not want to be named, said Baghdad had given inhabitants of seven named towns

ult of Iraq's threat to attack border towns would be to strengthen the resolve of the Iranian people to fight on to victory in the Gulf war, the National Iranian News Agency IRNA reported.

riots, the Tunisian government has decided on a wide range of austerity measures, including an 11 per cent increase in the price of bread, Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali said Friday.

Ozal favours confederation in Cyprus

confederation

in Cyprus

The communiqué reiterated the stances of both countries on major African and international issues and stressed the need to strengthen the OAU of which Mr. Moi was chairman until last year.

IRNA said the spokesman for the council, Hojatoleslam Moqtadaie, told reporters that sentences handed down by the central committee of the Iranian Tudeh Communist Party called on people around the world to protest at the recent sentencing of 87 Tudeh members, saying the evidence in the case was "very weak."

tral Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Communist Party called on people around the world to protest at the recent sentencing of 87 Tudeh members, saying the evidence against them had been pro-

the new sharp tone as evidence that Moscow has abandoned hopes of establishing a cordial relationship with Tehran based on a common opposition to the United States.

said the subsidies would be slowly and progressively reduced — while avoiding abrupt price increases likely to arouse public anger.

TV & RADIO	WHAT'S
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RADIO

WHAT'S

GOING ON

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TRAVELLER

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TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.			
JORDAN TELEVISION		TODAY'S EVENTS		AMMAN AIRPORT		EMERGENCIES			
MAIN CHANNEL		EXHIBITIONS		<i>This information is supplied by Alfa Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.</i>		Dr. Wael Khartabul 675035 Al Salem pharmacy 36730 Adnan pharmacy 59652 Yacoub pharmacy 44945 Jerusalem pharmacy 21270 Mekki pharmacy 75002			
16:30 Koran 16:40 Cartoons 17:35 Children's Programmes 18:30 Circus 19:20 Programme Review 19:30 Local Programme 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic Series 21:30 Local Programme on Jordan 22:10 Arabic Series 23:10 News Summary		"Orientalists" original paintings, at the Alia Art Gallery. "Pablo Picasso" paintings at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.		19:45 Damascus (RJ) 19:50 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 20:15 Baghdad (RJ) 20:30 Cairo (RJ) 21:05 Cairo (EA) 21:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ) 21:30 Bangkok (RJ) 21:40 Baghdad, London (BA) 00:05 Cairo (EA)		Ambulance 193, 75111 Fire, fire, police 199 Blood bank 39141 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 22090-3 Police rescue 192, 2111, 37777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 36390-1 Electric Power Co. 36381-2 Municipal water service 71125-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53533			
FOREIGN CHANNEL		CULTURAL CENTRES		ARRIVALS		HOSPITALS			
18:00 French Programme 19:00 News in French 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:30 News in Arabic 20:30 Beat Seller: Scarier Pomeroy - Part I 22:00 News in English 22:15 Jane Eyre: Eps. 5		Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1.30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1.30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261. Haya Arts Centre 665195 Hussein Youth City 667181 Y.W.C.A. 61793 Y.W.M.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 843555		07:05 Cairo (EA) 07:05 Agaba (RJ) 07:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 07:30 Damascus (RJ) 07:30 Jeddah (RJ) 07:45 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ) 07:45 Cairo (RJ) 07:45 Beirut (RJ) 10:40 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV) 10:40 Tripoli, Laraca (LN) 10:40 Kuwait (KAC) 10:50 Jeddah (SV) 12:30 Cairo (RJ) 12:30 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ) 17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ) 17:20 London, Paris (RJ) 17:30 Swedish crown 18:40 Madrid, Rome (RJ) 18:40 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) 18:50 Zurich, Damascus (RJ) 20:05 Cairo (EA) 20:20 Athens (RJ) 20:40 London (BA) 22:00 Damascus (RJ) 22:05 Cairo (EA) 22:05 Cairo (RJ) 00:45 Baghdad (RJ)		Local selling rates in fil Belgian franc 65/6 Dutch guilder 119/6 Egyptian guinea 320/6 Malta, J. Amman 43/9 Iraqi dinar 369/3 Italian lire (for 100) 22/2 Japanese yen (for 100) 160/2 Kuwait dirham 127/3 Lebanese lira 63/8 Omani rial 1078/3 Qatari rial 102/5 Saudi riyal 106/9 Swedish crown 46/3 Swiss franc 167/9 Syrian lira 54/9 UAE dirham 101/8 U.K. sterling pound 528/9 U.S. dollar 375/5 W. German mark 134/7		Hussein Medical Centre 81381-32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4 Akshah Maternity, J. Amman 42441 Jabal Amman Maternity 42362 Malha, J. Amman 36140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-4 Shmeisani Hospital 669311 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hassah 667558 Al-Musahar Hospital 66722-9 The Islamic, Abdali 665292 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164 Italian, Al-Muhajir 77011-3 Al-Badli, Al-Azraq 75111 Arzy, Marks 91611	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM S. partly on 95.0 KHz. SW		MUSEUMS		DEPARTURES		GENERAL			
07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newscast 08:00 Morning Show 09:00 News Summary 10:00 Morning Show 11:00 Pop Session 12:00 News Summary 12:30 Pop Session 13:00 News Summary 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Instrumentals 14:30 Science Report 15:00 Concert Hour 15:30 News Summary 16:00 Instrumentals 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 Listeners' Choice 18:00 News Summary 18:30 Jazz Hour 19:00 News Summary 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show 21:00 News Summary 22:00 Evening Show 23:00 News Summary 23:30 Evening Show 24:00 News Headlines		Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquity of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill), 11425 & 12110. 06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour: news summaries; daily business report; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; features 17:00 News 17:00 News and Features 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 International Viewpoints 18:30 Music USA Standards 19:00 News 19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Sunday Report 20:30 Issues in the News 21:00 News 21:10 International Viewpoints 21:30 Music USA Standards		06:45 Cairo (RJ) 06:50 Beirut (RJ) 07:05 Agaba (RJ) 07:40 Damascus, Paris (AF) 07:45 Cairo (EA) 07:55 Beirut (MEA) 11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 11:30 Cairo (RJ) 11:30 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV) 12:30 Cairo (EA) 12:40 Laraca, Tripoli (LN) 13:40 Kuwait (KAC) 14:30 Jeddah (SV) 14:30 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV) 15:00 Jeddah (RJ) 15:40 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)		Jordan Television 73111 Radio Jordan 74111 Ministry of Tourism 42311 Hotel complaints 666412 Police complaints 661176 Telephone: Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Cable or telex 18 Repair service 11			
VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260, 1570, 565, 1740, 11425 & 12110		PRAYER TIMES		WEATHER		MARKET PRICES			
06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour: news summaries; daily business report; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; features 17:00 News 17:00 News and Features 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 International Viewpoints 18:30 Music USA Standards 19:00 News 19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Sunday Report 20:30 Issues in the News 21:00 News 21:10 International Viewpoints 21:30 Music USA Standards		06:00 Fajr 06:37 (Sunrise) Dhahran 11:00 Sunrise 14:51 Asr 17:13 Maghrib 18:30 Isha		Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be fine, with light and variable winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. Low/high temperature in deg. C: Agaba 3/16 Amman 15/20 Dahran 20/27 Jordan Valley 12/22 Yesterday's high temperatures: Agaba 15, Agaba 21, Humidity 45 per cent. Amman 38 per cent, Agaba 45 per cent.		Upper/lower price in fil per kg. Apple (Double Red) 450/400 Apple (Golden) 450/400 Apple (Gambler) 450/400 Apple (Santal) 450/400 Apple (local) 220/180 Banana 280/240 Banana (Mukammal) 240/210 Beans 360/320 Cabbage 70/40 Carrot 150/120 Cauliflower (white) 70/40 Cucumber (large) 220/180 Cucumber (small) 330/280 Dates 180/150 Eggplant (large) 80/40 Eggplant (small) 140/100 Figs 400/300			

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Obeidat receives Saudi envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Saturday received in his office the Saudi Ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Ibrahim Al Sultan and the ambassador of Morocco to Jordan Abdul Latif Al Iraqi.

Masri, Santoshi discuss Mideast

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri received in his office Saturday the Indian ambassador to Jordan, Pyare Lal Santoshi. Mr. Masri and the Indian envoy discussed the current situation in the Middle East in light of recent developments. The foreign minister and Mr. Santoshi also reviewed Jordanian-Indian relations and ways of strengthening them.

Delegations leave for Tunis meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Assistant Secretary-General Nasuh Al Barghouti left Amman Saturday for Tunis to take part in the 36th meeting of the Council of Arab Social and Economic Council due to open in Tunis Monday. Also leaving Amman for the meeting in Tunis was a delegation representing the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology which is being led by the organisation's secretary-general, Dr. Zafer Al Sawwaf.

Ajajlouni visits Madaba health department

MADABA (Petra) — Health Minister Kamel Al Ajajlouni Saturday inspected the Madaba hospital and the health department in the district. He examined the various services offered to the public and was briefed on the activities and functions of the health centres. The minister was accompanied by Health Ministry Under-Secretary Suleiman Al Subeih and other senior aides.

Nine die in road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Nine people were killed and 81 injured in 148 road accidents which occurred in Jordan last week. Ninety one road accidents, in which one person was killed and 26 injured, occurred in Amman while the rest occurred in the suburbs, Zarqa, Balqa, Irbid, Karak, Ma'an, Aqaba and the Badia.

ACC loans in Jerash top JD 200,000

JERASH (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) in Jerash extended loans amounting to JD 200,000 during 1983 to Jordanian farmers to help them develop agriculture in the region. The ACC director here said that the corporation's aim is to make available maximum funds to farmers to increase production and develop agriculture.

Atomic energy committee talks focus on research

AMMAN (J.T.) — The advisory committee of the Jordanian Atomic Energy Committee Thursday held a meeting during which it discussed co-ordination between interested institutions, particularly in the use of nuclear beams in the research field, a report in Al Rai said.

The committee also reviewed the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), having examined the documents sent to the energy department at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism by the IAEA.

The advisory committee, grouping representatives from Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Ministry of Health, University of Jordan, Yarmouk University and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), will hold its next meeting in March.

Low income housing units to be completed by Dec

AMMAN (Petra) — The Urban Development Department (UDD) is to build 3,000 housing units in Marka, Rusafa and Quweisma for government employees earning low wages, Deputy Director Ya'qub Ammari said Saturday.

Mr. Ammari added that his department has started receiving applications from those wishing to benefit from the first batch of the housing units to be erected in Marka, which are scheduled to be finished in September 1984.

The second and third batches, in Rusafa and Quweisma, said Mr.

Ammari, will be finished in November and December respectively.

The housing units, together with the plots of land on which they are being constructed, will be sold to the beneficiaries at cost price with purchasers making an advance payment of five per cent of the total cost. The balance is to be paid over a period of 18 years, Mr. Ammari added.

He went on to say that these units will be provided with all essential services including water, electricity, sewers, clinics, schools, means of transport.

Physiotherapy

Physiotherapy sessions, which are supervised by specialists and doctors from the Health Ministry, are offered to the children within a well-prepared programme, to give the children the optimal benefit.

Entertainment

We also give due care to entertainment, social activities and hobbies, and the children are given lessons in music. Other recreational activities include drawing and singing, while the children go on outings and picnics.

Normal education

The children are provided with a normal education until they complete the third elementary class, when they are sent to continue their education at Ministry of Education schools in the town.

He said: "The children are sent

Nijm seeks public works links with Romania, Hungary

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijm Saturday discussed with Hungarian Charge d'Affaires in Amman Gyorgy Paller the possibility of Jordan benefiting from Hungarian specialised engineering expertise in the field of road design and construction.

Mr. Nijm also Saturday reviewed with the Romanian ambassador in Amman, Andrei Cervinovic, ways of strengthening bilateral commercial relations especially in the area of industrial and engineering projects being carried in Jordan by Romanian companies.

Also discussed during the meeting was the possibility of increasing the quantity of Jordanian phosphate which Romania imports as well as ways of improving the balance of trade between Jordan and Romania.

'Obeidat urges quick completion of water projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat expressed his great interest in the sewerage and water projects which are presently underway, under consideration, or about to be implemented, according to Al Rai's daily newspaper, newspaper.

Mr. 'Obeidat instructed the Water Authority to exert more efforts to finish these projects early, particularly the project for channelling water from Deir Alla to Amman and its neighbouring areas, which is near to being finished.

Meanwhile, Water Authority sources said work is in progress on a number of sewerage and water projects in Aqaba, Irbid, Jerash, in addition to a number of water projects in Mafrq, Karak, Madaba, Ma'an, Ajloun, Ain Janna, Kufranja and Anjara.

W. German agri aid discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Agriculture under-secretary, Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, returned home Saturday after a week-long visit to West Germany during which he attended the green week exhibition held in Berlin.

Dr. Lawzi said that he held talks with senior officials at the ministries of agriculture, the economy and foreign aid in Germany as well as development agencies and other institutions.

The talks dealt with agricultural co-operation between Jordan and West Germany especially with regard to existing projects being carried out in co-operation with German government as well as future projects such as the Zarqa river basin development project.

A number of German experts are scheduled to visit Jordan to follow-up these projects.

Mafrq children's centre helps make the handicapped more independent

By Elia Nasrallah and Ghazi Haddad

MAFRAQ — A home for the handicapped, which was opened here in 1972, can now care for 65 boarding pupils with an additional number of 42 day students. The children, aged between six and 15, receive all the necessary care and assistance and are trained in skills that will give them a vocation and make them independent in the future.

On a recent visit to the home for these handicapped people we met the director, Mohammad Shuha, who told us that the home is operated and financed by the Ministry of Social Development.

Here, the handicapped children are also provided with a basic education and medical or physiotherapy treatment which helps them to lead a normal life. Mr. Shuha said.

in the company of a supervisor who sees that special care is given to them on the daily journey to school and back. The home also receives handicapped people who normally live with their families but need specialised physiotherapy treatment.

The training we offer here depends on the age and the condition of the handicapped child and ranges from radio and television maintenance and repairing medical equipment, to knitting, dress-making and embroidery.

Physiotherapy

Physiotherapy sessions, which are supervised by specialists and doctors from the Health Ministry, are offered to the children within a well-prepared programme, to give the children the optimal benefit.

Entertainment

We also give due care to entertainment, social activities and hobbies, and the children are given lessons in music. Other recreational activities include drawing and singing, while the children go on outings and picnics.

Normal education

The children are provided with a normal education until they complete the third elementary class, when they are sent to continue their education at Ministry of Education schools in the town.

He said: "The children are sent

ents must bring him or her in for an examination. Afterwards the child is placed on probation for a period of 20 days.

We do not accept totally paralysed children because our programme are such as to only benefit those who can move. Each child costs at least JD 120 a year, but the Ministry of Social Development covers all the home's expenses.

On touring the home's sections, we met the supervisors and teachers who assured us that the children enjoy every possible attention and are treated in the best manner possible.

We also met Samih Al Jaafari, a handicapped youth who had been trained in maintaining medical equipment by the home.

Al Jaafari told us that he had polio when he was a very young child. Once I entered the home here I started receiving academic and vocational training until I completed the sixth elementary class. Later I learnt to type and to overhaul medical equipment, he said.

Mr. Jaafari said that he received encouragement from his instructors "who sent me to other centres for advanced training so that now I have a permanent job."



People queuing outside the Civil Registration Department last week for family books which are a necessary part of voter registration for the forthcoming by-elections (Petra photo)

Electoral figures announced as registration ends

Election officials to work holidays, says 'Obeidat

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat issued a communique Saturday asking all employees concerned with the forthcoming by-elections, to work during the intervening holidays before the election date of March 12, while it has been announced that a total of nearly 583,560 people have registered and are thus eligible to vote in the election.

According to the communique, all such employees will work on their holidays to become operative from Feb. 16, 1984. All these days will be considered as official working days, the communique said.

Mr. 'Obeidat said these measures were introduced in accordance with article 81 of the civil service regulation No. 23 contained in the law passed in 1966. This was passed to facilitate the provisions of the Lower House of Parliament's election law No. 24 issued in 1960, and the amendments thereto which gives the people the right to play a full role in national elections.

Meanwhile, Mr. 'Obeidat issued another communique prohibiting government employees from taking part in any electoral

campaigns.

The communique added that any employee violating these instructions will be subject to penalties, provided for in regulation No. 23.

According to Al Rai's Arabic daily newspaper close on 583,560 people have registered for voting in the coming by-elections for the East Bank of Jordan.

The figures emerged after registration centres around the country closed Friday evening following week-long activity in which committees conducted the process of registration.

Those registered, whether male or female, are at least 20 years of age and carry identity cards issued by the Civil Registration Department.

Now that the registration cen-



Ahmad 'Obeidat

tres have been closed the next step, that of preparing final lists of voters, is expected to start immediately to be followed by a government announcement allowing prospective members to be nominated as candidates.

According to Al Rai, a total of 93,729 people registered in the Balqa Governorate, 100,000 in the Amman Governorate, 10,000 in Madaba, 16,000 in Jerash, 60,000 in Zarqa, 178,700 in the Irbid Governorate and at least 64,412 in the Karak Governorate.

M.P.s vocal on public service, social issues

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the Lower House of Parliament raised a wide range of issues during Thursday's discussion of the policy statement of Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat's cabinet.

These issues included narrowing the gap between rich and poor, combating the wasteful spending of state money, developing agriculture and a reassessment of Jordan's educational and information policies.

A total of 24 members in their speeches dealt with these issues, related to bettering the living standards of Jordanians either at the national level or through conveying the complaints of their constituents.

Combating poverty, either through lowering consumer commodity prices, or through providing better public services to poor or remote areas, was one of the major topics discussed.

High prices

Many members complained about "the senselessly" high prices but Abdul Baki Jammo, a clergyman from Amman, accused the Ministry of Supply of competing with citizens instead of helping them.

"The Ministry of Supply should take its hands off tampering with commodity prices and the prices will go down, by themselves", he said.

Mr. Jammo also accused the ministry of "monopolising supply goods".

The prime minister, however, strongly disagreed saying that the Ministry of Supply does not compete with the citizens but is there to secure basic supply goods at reasonable prices.

Mr. 'Obeidat explained that the ministry was established in 1974 to counter "the unjust manipulation" of prices by some merchants and to secure supply reserves of basic food commodities.

He said that the ministry has succeeded in securing a strategic supply reserve of wheat, flour, sugar, rice and meat.

Moreover, the prime minister said, the government together with the Ministry of Supply has "continued to subsidise these staple food goods."

"In 1982 the government paid JD 9 million in wheat subsidies and the Ministry of Supply paid JD 1 million. In 1983, the ministry raised its contribution to JD 7 million while the government paid the rest which amounted to JD 5 million," he said.

Mr. 'Obeidat explained that the "cost of securing a reserve supplies of basic foods amounted to JD 22 million."

Thus such a task, because Jordan still imports most of its food supply, cannot be shouldered solely by merchants and has to be

carried out by the government" he said.

Mr. 'Obeidat disagreed that the Ministry of Supply imposes prices that benefit neither the consumer nor the merchants.

"The prices are fixed in a manner that allows a marginal profit to the importer, the wholesaler and the retailer, he said.

Both Mr. Naim Al Tal and Dr. Ya'qub Mo'ammer from Irbid called for the raising of the salaries of state employees to counter the rising cost of living.

Poor public services

Many members, especially those representing constituencies outside Amman complained about insufficient public services in their areas.

Mr. Tal pointed out that Irbid needs more hospitals to fulfil its inhabitants' health needs.

He noted that there is not a single industrial plant in Irbid that contributes to improving the standards of living of its people.

asked the government to lower the price of electricity especially in the villages to the south where people cannot afford such high fees.

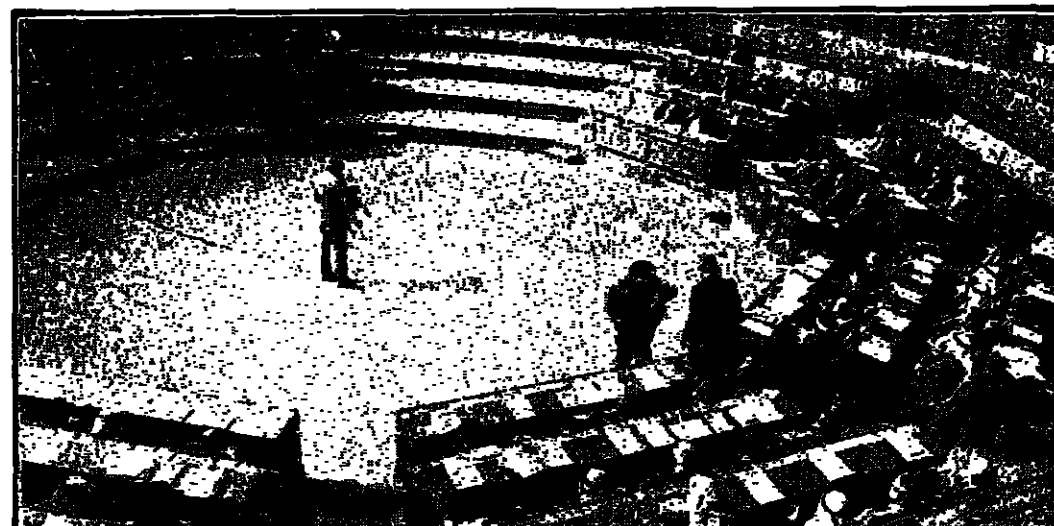
Mr. Audtallah accused the company that provides electricity in the Amman area of "blackmail and monopoly."

Mr. Audtallah angrily complained about the lack of services in villages, and continued talking about it on his way back from the microphone to his seat.

Mr. Abdul Wahab Tarawneh from Karak, who was one of the only two members who withheld confidence from Mr. 'Obeidat's government, suggested the formation of a specialised committee to visit the south and to study the conditions of "the thirsty villages" concerned.

Combating corruption

Closely related to bettering the living standards of the people was the issue of combating corruption and the squandering of state funds.



Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Thursday addresses the meeting of the Lower House of Parliament

following the confidence debate (Photo by Youssef Al-Akhan)

A balanced geographic distribution of industrial projects in the country to enable all areas to develop anywhere near equally was a demand raised by many members including Mr. Tal, Mr. Jalal Qalab from Jerash and Mr. Hifzi Melhis from Nablus in the West Bank among others.

Electricity supply

The representatives also pointed out that electricity and water has not reached some areas of the Kingdom especially in the villages.

Mr. Mofleh Audtallah from Madaba pointed out that the government has succeeded in extending electricity to the remote areas of the country, but has failed to extend it to villages that in the environs of Amman.

Mr. Audtallah said that "the area that extends between the borders of Amman down to the borders of Karak in the south is almost totally deprived of light."

Mr. Qalab complained about the high price of electricity. He

RSS, JVA sign dam water study agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement was signed Saturday between the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) under which the RSS will conduct a study of the water in the King Talal Dam.

Under the agreement, the RSS will also observe all the chemical, physical and biological changes which the dam's water undergoes in addition to specifying the uses of the dam's water especially its suitability for agricultural and drip irrigation purposes.

The agreement was signed for the JVA by its president, Dr. Munther Haddadin, and for the RSS by its president, Dr. Fakhraddin Al Daghestani.

The three-year agreement is a continuation of previous studies conducted by the RSS on the quality of the dam's water.

Youth body to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The national committee for celebrating the International Year for Youth will hold its first meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of minister of culture and youth and antiquities, Dr. Abdullah 'Oweidat.

The 11 member committee will discuss a number of topics, the most important of which relate to the United Nations directives on participation.

The U.N. has declared 1985 as the International Year for the Youth with the aim of increasing awareness of the conditions and problems affecting young people in today's world.

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Message from Riyadh

ACCORDING TO some reports from the U.S., there is a growing perception that the Reagan administration has quietly altered its policy on Lebanon so that the Marines can be withdrawn from Beirut as soon as the most minimal conditions are met. The shift, the reports suggest, has come despite the administration's public hostility towards Syria's stance on Lebanon and its outrage at the Democrats in Congress over their demand for a speedy withdrawal of the Marines from Beirut.

How this perception should be related to recent remarks by the Saudi crown prince, Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, to the effect that the U.S. should withdraw its forces from Lebanon and pressure Israel to pull its forces out too, is as yet unknown. But the link between what is happening in Washington and on the ground here in the Middle East is almost crystal clear.

Officially, the Reagan administration is not convinced of any change in the Saudi position regarding Lebanon. "That is not our understanding of the Saudi position," Alan Romberg, the State Department spokesman, said when asked to comment on Prince Abdullah's statement the other day. "And it is certainly not what Crown Prince Abdullah said in his January 29 meeting with distinguished American visitors to Saudi Arabia," he added.

Unofficially, however, the Americans must surely be aware that the Saudi position, said or withheld, is clearly reflected in those other statements the crown prince also made on the subject of Lebanon. What is so unclear, for instance, about the Saudi Arabians not being able to understand the role played by the American Marines in Lebanon, and why a superpower such as the U.S. should send its fleet and 2,000 of its troops there?

"If the American fleet and troops came to Lebanon to repulse the (Israeli) aggressors and force them to withdraw and punish them, then they (Americans) would be welcomed," Prince Abdullah said. "But if that great power goes to Lebanon to defend a number of individuals or to implement a certain policy based on wrong counsel, then that is disgraceful."

Characteristically enough though, the U.S. administration would want to continue to understand that, despite these remarks, the Saudi position remains one of support for the Multi-National Force presence in Beirut. But would it also take hint from Prince Abdullah's words, said in the same statement, that the Syrian forces would be withdrawn from Lebanon after the American and Israeli troops were pulled out of the country? And, if only to put the whole matter of its involvement in Lebanon in perspective, should not the U.S. look at these latest developments in the context of the wholeness of the problem of Lebanon which should be solved in its entirety?

Instead of authorising White House spokesman Larry Speakes to say something dumb about the Saudi crown prince's statement, like "I'll bet when it all comes out, the full context won't be quite that startling," the Reagan administration should surely be looking for the real meaning of the new-old message from the Arab World. This message is not about the withdrawal of the U.S. Marines from Lebanon for this or that condition, big or small, nor is it about leaving U.S. interests in the region for the wolves. It is about a specific demand from the U.S. to settle the crisis of Lebanon through an even-handed American approach, and not on the basis of what, an aggressive and obstinate Israel might or might not accept as a compromise.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A common responsibility

NOW THAT the government of Mr. Ahmad Obeidat has won parliamentary approval, it is expected to start implementing the provisions included in its policy statement presented to the Upper House. But in the process of implementation the government should take into consideration the different remarks of the house because they indeed reflect issues deep-rooted in our society. It is also fair to say that the government alone cannot achieve all aspirations, but parliament and the public can create the suitable atmosphere and pave the way for the government to handle successfully its various tasks.

Our success in exercising democratic rule is bound to bring about a reduction in "extraordinary" laws and is also bound to boost liberties and open a new scope for democratic progress. Therefore the responsibility of achieving the country's objectives is contained in the government's policy statement is a common responsibility between citizens and the government. Co-operation between the legislative and executive authorities is bound to boost our march towards establishing democracy and achieving progress and prosperity for the country.

Al Dustour: Time to look within

IT IS time we stopped blaming external powers for fuelling the battles in Lebanon and looked into the real causes of the civil war that has been going on there for almost a decade. It is true that external elements have played a role in instigating one faction against the other and in triggering off many of the battles that took place in Beirut and the surrounding mountains. Yet, one has to admit that the real reason behind the fighting in Lebanon lies with its own deep-rooted issues and chronic problems. Most of those involved in the fighting claim they are defending their rights or demanding equality with their opponents. The social infrastructure of Lebanon is really in need of repair as there are groups who dominate social, economic and political life in Lebanon and there are others who are denied such rights.

Some of the groups and political parties have enjoyed rights and privileges over the years — something which they acquired soon after the country won independence. No doubt many changes have taken place in Lebanon since Independence Day and it is both just and fair to say that all groups have the right to equal opportunities and privileges in social, economic and political activities. It is wrong to continue blaming others for the crisis while the factions and the political parties stick rigidly to their positions and do not want to tolerate the views of their opponents.

Sawt Al Shaab: Strength through continuity

IN COUNTRIES which allow political parties to exist and ideologies to spread among the citizens different government with ideologies follow different policy lines. So whenever a party is defeated and another comes to power the new party tends to change many of its laws and introduce many regulations different from those instituted by its predecessor. The country as a whole, of course, stands to suffer and things become confused because every new government has to start anew or even to start from scratch.

In Jordan, the situation is different and the present prime minister, who served in the previous government, realises many of the country's problems and ways of solving them. In his answers to remarks made by members of parliament Thursday, the prime minister showed that he was well aware of many of the issues that were referred to in the different speeches, and is determined to find solutions to them in co-operation with parliament and his colleagues in government. We really appreciate the prime minister's stand in this respect and we wish him every success in implementing his policies as stated in the government's policy statement to parliament.

Economic policies of the new government

By Fahed Fanek

In its policy statement to parliament earlier this week, the new government of Mr. Ahmad Obeidat asserted in no unclear terms that it did not come out of nowhere and is not destined to the unknown. Its endeavours will capitalise on the achievements of the preceding governments and will build a strong base for the next governments in the on-going chain of continuity and progress engineered by the King himself.

In the economic field, the prime minister naturally did

not disclose his specific plans and policies, but he spelled out the government's firm pledge to keep the growth momentum: maintain the favourable climate for local and Arab investments, pave the way to even more opportunities, and abide by the inter-Arab economic programme laid down by the Amman summit of Arab leaders in 1980.

The government re-assured the private sector of the preservation of the individual initiative, with the general framework of national interest, social justice, and fair distribution of income through proper taxation and economic and social planning.

High on the agenda of the new government will be to deal with environmental problems, correcting land use, enhancing housing projects, and improving public utilities especially water, electricity, transport and communications.

The government will also give a hand to the local construction sector and assist other

production capabilities in industry, mining and energy, with special emphasis made on reviving agricultural production which has the priority and cannot be postponed anymore.

The tone of the prime minister was sincere, and he conveyed the message of seriousness and action and raised genuine hopes that all Jordanians will respond positively and assist the government to assist them through active participation, involvement and hardwork.

The new prime minister, having come from the heart of the Jordanian establishment, stressed the continuity in Jordanian policies, but every one knows he is resourceful and has his own style and new ideas, and will be able to come up

with the necessary adjustments in economic policies and directions, to serve his announced strategy of social and economic security, and respond to the ever-changing circumstances, on both local and regional levels.

The Jordanian economy has been managed by experts in economics, finance, engineering, and management.

But it is high time now to provide the technocrats with a political perspective, to set the tone, and point out the national purpose. We cannot afford to continue embracing growth as such even if it was built on moving sands. The prime minister has made a good start and will soon make his presence felt as a political leader, with vision and depth.

White House mounts verbal offensive on Lebanon

By Michael Gleb
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The White House began a verbal offensive this week to try to blunt the troublesome issue of U.S. military involvement in Lebanon now that President Reagan is an official candidate for re-election.

While the administration says it still favours a bipartisan approach to Lebanon and other issues on which it is vulnerable, its strong language may have reduced prospects for keeping the opposition Democrats in line behind Mr. Reagan.

White House Spokesman Larry Speakes accused the Democrats of playing politics with Lebanon, a problem Mr. Reagan strategists admit is a potential Achilles heel for the president as he seeks a second four-year term.

Mr. Speakes was reacting to a Democratic-backed resolution pending in Congress calling for prompt withdrawal of the 1,600 Marines in the Multinational Force.

The non-binding measure is unlikely to pass the Senate, which is controlled by Mr. Reagan's Republican Party, and the president has said he will simply ignore it.

But the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives seems

likely to approve the resolution in some form, and this alone would effectively stamp Lebanon as "Reagan's war".

Mr. Speakes insisted he was not questioning anyone's patriotism, but in language reminiscent of the Vietnam war era he said Democratic criticism of Mr. Reagan's policy could encourage Syria to "dig in and hold on" in resisting peace efforts.

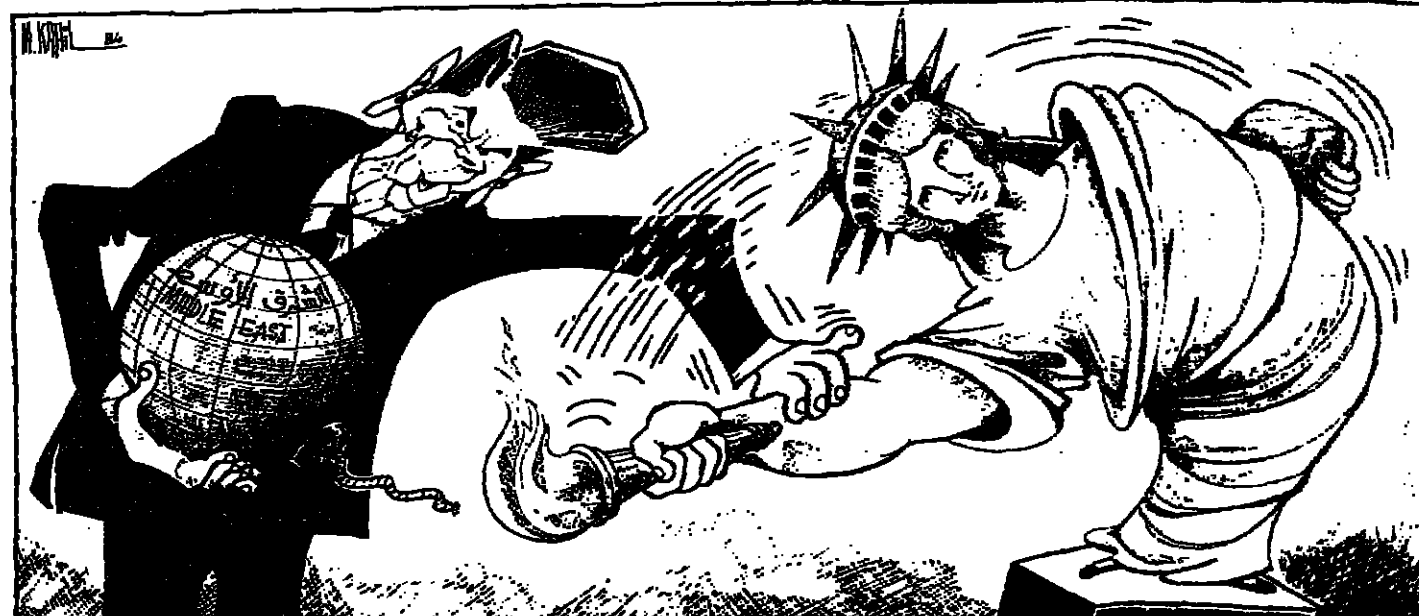
The administration has repeatedly described Syria as a key obstacle to peace in Lebanon.

"Talk in this nation that we don't have a solid commitment on the part of the president and the Congress only aids and abets these people" who want to undermine the peace process, Mr. Speakes said in an effort to put the onus on the Democrats.

A total of 259 U.S. servicemen have died in Lebanon since August, including 242 killed in the suicide bombing of the Marine headquarters near Beirut on Oct. 23, and opinion polls show that a majority of Americans think the Marines should be brought home.

Mr. Reagan's Campaign Director Edward Rollins told reporters that Lebanon is a crucial election issue.

Mr. Reagan's strategists have taken to the offensive to paint the Democrats as a naive and weak party that would cringe in the face



of "Soviet threats."

"With them in control, our defenses would still be growing weaker while the Soviets grew bolder," Mr. Reagan said at a Capitol Hill luncheon for Republican members of Congress Thursday.

Referring to the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada last October, Mr. Reagan added that under a Democratic administration, "troops would have landed on Grenada, that is for sure. They just

would not have been American troops."

The Grenada invasion is likely to be cited often by Mr. Reagan during the campaign as evidence for the assertion in his State of the Union address last week that "America is back — standing tall."

Mr. Reagan's strategists worry that the Lebanese impasse and the breakdown in arms talks with the Soviet Union will revive old fears

that Mr. Reagan is trigger-happy.

But they hope to avoid being pushed onto the defensive, as sometimes happens with incumbent presidents during an election campaign. Mr. Reagan urged Republican faithfuls to strike first during the campaign.

The president said: "Since a campaign flounders without ideas or intensity, let's make certain that we take the offensive."

The White House was unmoved by Democratic House Speaker Thomas O'Neill's suggestion that the sharp words from Mr. Speakes may have hurt chances for cooperation on other issues, such as reducing the big federal budget deficits.

Mr. Speakes replied: "I am terribly sorry if the speaker is upset, but that is the way the game is played."

Jackson's long shot for the presidency

Jesse Jackson acknowledges that he has little chance of winning the Democratic presidential nomination, let alone getting to the White House. But Reginald Dale warns that neither the party nor his Democratic rivals can afford to ignore him.

WASHINGTON — There are two types of contender for this year's Democratic presidential nomination, says the Rev. Jesse Jackson: "The long shots and the big shots." He readily admits, as the only black in an all-male field of eight, that he is one of the long shots.

The 42-year-old Mr. Jackson, formerly best known as a Chicago-based civil rights activist, speaks with some bitterness. He believes that the rules of the Democratic Party's selection process have heavily contributed to this state of affairs. The rules, he said recently, are "stacked for the big shots."

Mr. Jackson's fortunes have swung from public acclamation for his rescue of a captured American airman from Syria to rejection at the hands of the Democratic National Committee, where he failed to get the rules changed.

The odds had always been against Mr. Jackson's last minute demand. The rules were deliberately altered in 1982 by party stalwarts (including former Vice-President Walter Mondale, now the leading "big shot") to make the race more difficult for outsiders. The party establishment was not pleased with the success of earlier "long shots" like Mr. Jimmy Carter, or Mr. George McGovern before him, in carrying off the nomination.

What particularly irks Mr. Jackson is the rule that a candidate must reach a 20 per cent "threshold" of primary votes before

qualifying for a proportional share of a state's delegates to the national convention. This, Mr. Jackson argues, effectively disenfranchises blacks and other minorities in many states.

Although Mr. Mondale, in a bid for peace, changed tack and backed Mr. Jackson's demand for a 10 per cent threshold, the committee declined to open the Pandora's box of rule changes. Mr. Jackson then snubbed the committee and there was bad feeling all round.

Mr. Jackson may still embarrass the Democrats by taking the fight to the courts or even to the floor of the convention, to be held in San Francisco in July. But he has stopped short of fulfilling the party's worst fears, which were that he would run as an independent. "I would rather, in the face of it all, have a broken heart than a broken party," he said.

He is not totally averse to his underdog role, however, and in a major speech at Washington's Georgetown University he was back on his old extrovert form. The predominantly white, middle-class students presented him, to warm applause, with a special plaque testifying to his "dedication to humanitarian values" in retrieving Lt. Robert Goodman from his Syrian jail.

The Syrian mission is widely credited with helping him come a credible third behind Mr. Mondale and Senator John Glenn of Ohio in a poll of Democratic voters last week. His share of the vote

jumped from nine to 15 per cent. Later another national poll put him equal second with Mr. Glenn at 14 per cent, with Mr. Mondale streets ahead at 44 per cent.

Mr. Jackson's smoothly delivered speech went down well with the 700-or-so students. He persuaded a good 40 of them to "come on down" to the podium and sign voter registration forms, and another dozen stood up to volunteer as campaign workers. But some of the blacks in the audience clearly regarded themselves as too sophisticated for Mr. Jackson's Baptist preacher oratory — many black leaders regard Mr. Jackson as a self-seeking opportunist, and would prefer a liberal white like Mr. Mondale who has more chance of actually beating Mr. Reagan.

Mr. Jackson urged his young listeners to use their votes rather than follow the path of "drugs, dropping out or bloody revolution." He is greatly attached to slogans: "The human race over the nuclear race," "democracy not technocracy," "justice at home, peace abroad," "jobs not jail." He claims that it costs six or seven times more to keep a person in prison for three or four years than to finance a university education.

He wants a "new direction" for the country that will give the poor and the underprivileged an equal say. He thinks a woman should run for president.

He also wants to cut wasteful defence spending practices, which, he says, have led the Pentagon to spend as much as \$439 on a hammer and \$3,000 on a love seat for a naval officers' mess.

He is devoted to puns: The administration's payment-in-kind (Pik) farm support system is "a Pik programme for the rich and a pickpocket programme for the poor." He chastises the "Civil Wrongs Office" of the iniquitous "Just Ice" Department.

Mr. Jackson is a patriot and an idealist. He would like to see America dominate the world, not by force of arms but by the talents and education of its people. "The world will be ruled by those with the most developed minds," he says. But he also believes in a fortress U.S. that would retreat from its current international responsibilities by withdrawing its troops from Europe and keeping out Japanese imports.

There are honest themes, but no real platform behind his often hollow rhetoric. He knows he will not become president, though he will almost certainly become the country's best-known black politician. His following is mainly, but by no means exclusively, black and liberal whites are now beginning to latch on to what they see as his moral vision, a quality less obvious in the other contenders.

The biggest service he can probably do the Democrats — apart from enlivening a dull campaign — is to help bring out the 11.5 million black voters who represent over 10 per cent of the national electorate, and mobilise as many as possible of the additional six million still unregistered. Long shot he may be, but it is not in the interests of the Democratic Party or of Mr. Mondale to ignore Mr. Jackson. — Financial Times news feature.

Gun-talk back before election in Guatemala

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

GUATEMALA CITY — Violence has returned to Guatemala's capital city as preparations gather pace for an end to military rule.

For almost two years, Guatemala city was an island of relative peace in a country torn by Central America's longest civil war. But a recent rash of violence suggests the quiet days are over.

Police stations, government establishments, foreign embassies and the capital's international airport have come under attack. One of the country's most prominent right-wing politicians was ambushed in broad daylight, while police report a steady rise in common crime as well.

Gen. Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores' military government used tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery and helicopters in an assault on a guerrilla hideout just two blocks from the presidential palace in the heart of the city.

"Things are likely to get worse before they get better," a senior Western diplomat said. "This looks like it's becoming an election campaign of both the ballot and the bullet."

Despite the increasing violence, however, some foreign residents say they feel safer in Guatemala than in New York or other Western cities, where overall crime rates tend to be higher.

Gen. Mejia Victores, who took power in a military coup on Aug. 8, has promised repeatedly to return to barracks after free presidential elections at a date yet to be fixed.

As a first step towards a return to constitutional rule, Guatemala is due to elect a constituent assembly in July which will draft a new constitution and electoral laws.

But many Guatemalans suspect that resistance to an end to military rule will grow as elections draw nearer.

Vinicio Cerezo, head of the middle-of-the-road Christian Democratic Party, predicted in a recent interview that political leaders would become targets of hit squads in the months before the balloting for the 88-member constituent assembly.

"The military don't want to give up power," Mr. Cerezo told Reuters. "So the hard men will be tempted to arrange for the murder of politicians on both the left and the right, then say the situation is getting out of control, impose martial law and stay in charge."

A few weeks after Mr. Cerezo's gloomy forecast, gunmen tried to

kill rightwing leader Leonel Sisniega Otero in a daylight ambush in a busy district of Guatemala City.

Mr. Sisniega himself declined to comment on the probable identity of his attackers, but the circumstances of the ambush sparked speculation that it had been masterminded by enemies inside the government establishment.

"The gunmen chased Sisniega past four bank buildings, each heavily guarded by armed police units," a senior civil servant reported. "Not one fired a shot or took any other action and one cannot help but wonder why."

The reasons for a series of spectacular operations by leftwing Urban guerrillas are less mysterious: They want to believe the government's claim that the insurgents are a spent force after more than 20 years of fighting a succession of military governments here.

But Gen. Mejia Victores and the man he ousted, Gen. Efraim Rios Montt, proclaimed in public that they had throttled the insurgency in Guatemala City and were bringing it under control in the central highlands.

In the capital alone, more than 7,200 suspected "subversives" have been arrested since Gen. Mejia Victores seized power, according to the interior ministry. But the credibility of government assertions that its efforts were pacifying the city has come under serious question.

Late in December, for example, a group of hooded guerrillas walked calmly into the government's broadcasting studio here, ordered the staff out of the building at gunpoint, poured petrol on equipment and wrecked it with a hand grenade.

The Organisation of People in Arms (ORPA) claimed responsibility for the raid, describing it as a blow against false government propaganda.

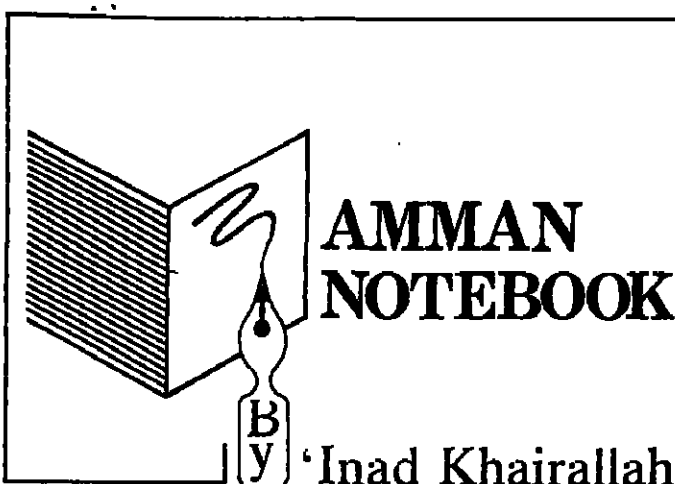
ORPA struck again in mid-January with simultaneous grenade and machinegun attacks on five police stations across the capital.

A few days before, the army used 300 troops backed by tanks, artillery and helicopters in the biggest operation in the capital since 1981.

It ended with the death of three guerrillas, reduced their "safe house" near the presidential palace to a heap of smouldering rubble and embarrassed the government severely.

On the eve of the army action, Gen. Mejia Victores had told reporters: "The war against subversion is already over."

هكذا نحن الرجال



AMMAN NOTEBOOK

Inad Khairallah

THE OTHER day a friend of mine asked me how I celebrated the New Year Eve. In prison, I told him. He thought I was joking and tried to laugh it off. I assured him I was serious. He looked bewildered, so I hastened to add that I made an accident with my car during party-hopping and I was not exactly sober. Did I hit any other car or person, he asked. No, I told him, the brunt of the hit was borne by the traffic island and my car. Then how come I landed in prison, my friend asked. Well, I told him, I broke the law that nobody should drive a car under the influence of alcohol, and the most logical place I would end up was the prison. It was around 1 a.m. and to my misfortune a policeman was at hand at the site of the accident, otherwise I would have managed to move the car and drive off, I added.

My friend made some sympathetic sounds. I told him not to mind: I actually deserved to be locked up for at least 24 hours, but added that I was happy my experience lasted only about five or six hours before I was taken to court and fined the appropriate amount and let off.

I would have had some impressions of how it was like to be on the other side of the bars, my friend commented. Of course I had, I told him. "I bet there were many more like

you, being charged for drunkenness during the New Year's Eve," my friend said. No, I said, as far as I could see I was the only unfortunate person behind the bars of the particular lock up I was in, being charged of drunken driving. Of course the other would have been charged for brawls, pretty quarrels, thefts etc., my friend asserted. Among the 14 or 15 persons under detention that night I could spot only one person, who was charged with fighting. I told my friend. My friend looked confused, what were the rest detained for, he asked.

That was the best part of it, I told him. Most of them were decent folks, but were either careless to ascertain of their bank balance before issuing checks, or forgotten to meet the payments on their com-bialeh, and in some cases not making the instalment payments for the cars they had bought.

For instance, I told my friend, there was this guy, an assistant manager of a company, who issued a cheque which bounced. We got to know each other and inquired as to what the other's crime was. I told him I made an accident hitting the traffic island after having one too many, and asked him what he did. He cited the case of the bounced cheque and added that he was picked up at

Once upon a hectic New Year's Eve

a five-star hotel's bar, having the first drink of the day and about to start celebrating the New Year Eve with his girlfriend.

Then there was this person who had not met the payment of his com-bialeh. He was a lot different from the rest. Instead of being submissive to the law, he was saying (privately of course) he would not pay the com-bialeh and would not mind if he was imprisoned for "one month, two months or even three months."

There was one another person, well-dressed, in his early forties, who was going around inquiring as to every one's crime was and offering the right consolation. When it came to me, he assured: "Don't worry, your crime is very light. You would be let off with a fine." As to the guy whose cheque had bounced, he said: "If I were you, my friend, I would get in touch with someone and raise the money and pay off. In these types of cases the best way is a compromise."

I was curious to know what his advice to the person who did not want to pay his com-bialeh was. So I sharpened my ears to hear him. But the mentor just stared at the guy, shook his head and went over to the corner. I was also curious to know what the mentor's crime was, so I went over to him and offered him a cigarette. "No, thanks," he declined and sat staring at the ceiling. Apparently, he was in no mood to discuss his affairs with me, so I left him to his own devices.

Around 8:30 a.m. some of us were taken to the court downtown and again locked up in the basement. There were several others there already, brought from various other police lockups. I was told my case would be called soon.

After about 15 minutes ano-

ther person was brought in. He was pleading with the policeman who accompanied him to allow him to pay his fine and leave. "Just as soon as the accountant comes," the policeman told him and locked him up.

He entered the lock-up, gave us all a weak smile. One of us asked about what he had done to be in the court. "Oh, I had some drinks and quarrelled with my wife. The neighbours called the police and I spent last night in the lock-up."

"Everything is over by now," he continued, "I appeared before the judge who fined me five dinars and 110 fils." He went over to the door and pleaded with the policeman again, "please tell me the moment the cashier comes so that I can pay the fine and leave," and waved a piece of paper, which he said, was the judge's order to pay the fine.

How lucky he was to look forward to his freedom so soon. I thought, I was wondering what would be awaiting me, hoping against hope the judge would not order me to be jailed, when the door opened again and the person from the earlier lock-up who did want to pay his com-bialeh was ushered in. He gave me a big smile as if we were long lost friends and inquired whether my case was over. Not yet, I told him.

By then, a man came to the door asking whether any of us wanted tea or coffee. I wanted to have a cup of tea but before I could open my mouth two others ordered tea for every one in the cell. I was too tired to protest, so I kept quiet. The guy who wanted to pay his fine pleaded with the teaman too, to be kind enough to pay his fine for him. "It is none of my business," the teaman said, "my job is to sell you tea or coffee. What would you have?"

The man just turned away, muttering something, apparently cursing everyone around. Suddenly a name was called out and he went forward eagerly to the door. There was a man there who asked him: "Are you (so and so)?" He said yes. "Okay give me your paper and the money. I would pay the fine for you."

Promptly, the man handed over the money and the paper and the newcomer left. Immediately the com-bialeh man, who was a close observer, turned to the man and asked: "Do you know him?" The man replied: "no".

"Then why did you give him the money? For all you know he may just decide to walk off with the money," the com-bialeh guy asserted.

The man looked worried. He went over to the bars and shouted across to the policeman sitting there: "Look! One guy came and took my money and paper to pay the fine but I do not know him." The policeman looked concerned too. "But why did you give him the money if you don't know him?" asked one of them. "Never mind why I gave him; I just wanted to let you know," the man told the policeman, as if the matter was a police responsibility.

The policeman was evidently angry. "Did you ask us before giving the money?" he asked. "Now go and sit down and pray to God the guy is honest enough to come back with your receipt." The man looked distressed and tried to say something but decided to keep quiet.

In the meantime, the policeman at the desk was getting calls from the court upstairs to send various people from the lock-up, and there were newcomers in the cell too.

One of them asked: "Why are you in?" with a very happy face as if he was glad to see me

inside. His expression disarmed me off answering and I just stared at him. He looked around as if seeking the others' support to persuade me to answer his question but evidently none came forward. The com-bialeh man answered for me: "Oh it is nothing. Just an accident under..." and made a gesture of drinking with his thumb.

"If that is all, you do not have to worry," volunteered another and I was happy that I had at least the moral support of the majority.

Suddenly a man came at the door and shouted the com-bialeh man's name. He went forward and started whispering to him. We could not hear what he was saying, but evidently his mood that he would not pay his com-bialeh had undergone a drastic change. He was pleading something with the guy on the other side.

"Nothing to do with me," the other guy raised his voice. "What do you think I have to do with your television and refrigerator. I want my money, and if you can make some arrangement to pay it before this evening I will see that you are out tomorrow." Apparently the com-bialeh man was trying to convince the man that he was willing to give his television, refrigerator and some other things from his household to square up his com-bialeh.

"You better make arrangements for cash payment; otherwise see you after two months." With this last remark, his creditor left. The com-bialeh man started swearing at him and the policeman had to warn him to stop the fluent flow of the none-too-scholarly side of the vocabulary.

My name was called; I was taken upstairs to the court. The judge fined me JD 68,600, and since I did not have enough money on me, gave me half an

hour to pay the fine. A policeman escorted me and I went to the first floor and called a friend of mine on the phone. I was sure I would be waking him up, especially that I knew he had been planning for the New Year Eve in grandeur. Sure enough, it was not exactly in a pleasant voice that he answered the phone.

I wished him a "happy new year", got a "same to you", and before he could speak further told him to come down to the court with money and let me out.

He evidently understood the seriousness of the situation and promised to come as soon as possible. My escort asked me what happened and I told him. I also asked him whether I could wait upstairs until my friend comes, but he said no. I had to go down and be locked up again until the fine was paid and the receipt was produced to the policeman down, he said.

I had no alternative. I went down and was locked up again. The moment I entered the cell, several others crowded around me asking how did it go, and those who were new wanted to know what my crime was in the first place. I told them the story, and this time I was smiling, even at the person who was happy to see me inside. I looked around for the com-bialeh man but could not find him. I guessed he was taken upstairs.

I spotted the guy who had given the fine money and his paper to the stranger looking expectantly at me. I inquired whether the stranger had come back and he shook his head.

There were a lot of people at the cashier. I told him, and that his man would be soon back. His face brightened. "Do you think so?" Of course I did, I told him, just because the com-bialeh man had a dishonest streak in him, it did not mean

every one was dishonest.

The next moment proved how right I was. The stranger was at the bars, asking for the receipt, opened the door and the man was free. It turned out that the man's wife had sent the saviour, the policeman told us later.

I hoped my friend would be there soon so that I also could be free. I calculated how much time it would take him to change, go down, hail a cab and reach the court. I decided it would be more than 10 minutes before my friend could reach the court, but at the end of the 10 minutes, I added another 10 minutes, for him to take a bath.

I kept looking at my watch, and one of the cellmates told me "the cashier is open until 1:30, so you have at least one hour." But I was worried more. If my friend comes on the dot of 1:30 to pay the fine, then the probability of the judge leaving for home by the time my fine was paid would be a catastrophic, ending in my having to spend another night in a cell.

My friend turned up when I was about to lose hope. He came and consoled me, went up and paid the fine, came back. And I was free.

When I was climbing the stairs from the basement cells, a happy voice greeted me. It was the company assistant manager whose cheque bounced, handcuffed and heading for lock-up. "So you are leaving?" he asked.

I nodded a yes, I was. "I wish we could meet again," he said. I was most alarmed by the idea of meeting him again in a cell and he sensed that. "No, no, no, I was suggesting that once I sort this mess out, we should celebrate the New Year all over again. We were the deprived ones, don't you think so?"

Romanians find it's no more easy to 'line pockets illegally'

By Larry Gerber
Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Authorities here are reportedly dealing out death sentences and harsh penalties for Romanians who take advantage of the nation's economic crisis to line their pockets illegally.

Leading jurists say increasing reports of "economic crime", and punishment in the official press are intended as a deterrent to would-be wrongdoers. At least 55 people have been sentenced recently to prison — and three to death — for such offenses, an informal survey of local newspapers showed.

Law-abiding citizens face the

daily frustrations of power blackouts and long lines to buy scarce supplies of meat, cheese and other goods as the government exports food supplies in order to earn foreign currency to pay its debts.

A joke making the rounds of the capital city signals the bitter resignation of many Romanians: "Lines are a good omen," the saying goes. "It means there is something to buy."

Romania Libera, the leading government newspaper, reported the most serious corruption case last December: Three men were sentenced to death in the city of Tirgoviste for stealing meat from a local processing plant and selling it for profit to restaurants and stores.

The death penalty, imposed in

that case for "undermining the national economy," is carried out here by firing squad.

Legal experts said in a recent interview the sentences had been appealed, an indication the convicted had not yet been executed.

Fifteen other defendants got prison terms of up to 20 years. In January, Pentu Patrie, the monthly magazine of the interior ministry, made an example of Romulus Cosnean, manager of a good store in the western city of Arad. He was sentenced to 20 years in jail for illegally buying food to resell and for cheating customers.

Cosnean recycled the coffee grounds in his espresso machine, the magazine reported. He also managed to get and sell dog vac-

alties in the most serious cases were most severe.

However, Mr. Patulea and Rosca Constantin, secretary of the Bar Association, argued in an interview that the recently publicized crimes could not be directly traced to the economy.

"Our socialist economy is very solid. We have a balanced economy," said Mr. Constantin.

There has been no notable increase in street crime, Mr. Patulea said, even though areas of the country and its cities are blacked out at night to save power.

Despite prostitution in Bucharest's main hotels and a flourishing black market based on U.S. dollars and Kent cigarettes, the jurists downplayed both offenses as rare.

According to informed Western sources, more than 170 Romanians legally emigrated last year, most of them to West Germany.

About 2,000 go to the United States each year, and the anteroom of the U.S. consular section here is crowded each morning with people seeking permission to settle in America.

Reliable sources outside the country said about 1,000 Romanians fled last year by hiding in trucks, taking light planes or making the dangerous swim across the Danube River into Yugoslavia, where they sought resettlement help from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

Jail sentences for those who are caught generally range from six months to three years.

Keep the grey cells busy

By Werner Neubaus

PADERBORN, W. Germany — If you don't keep the grey cells busy you may lose up to a twelfth of your memory in a week, a Paderborn cybernetics institute says after two years of tests on 127 Black Forest hospital patients. The way to keep the mind active and alert is to go in for brain jogging, a daily routine with pen, paper and figures.

The Paderborn research team, probed patients kept in isolation who barely had an opportunity to talk with anyone. They were found to drop eight IQ points in a week and 20 in three weeks. After 60 days the memories of bed-ridden patients declined steeply. International research has shown

that a similar fate may befall singles, pensioners, the sick from rheumatics to the wheelchair-bound, soldiers on guard duty, nightwatchmen and people in prison. Between eight and ten million people in the Federal Republic of Germany face memory impairment as a result of monotonous surroundings.

Exercises in mental concentration combined with physical exercise in what the Paderborn experts advise to keep the brain active and boost life expectancy. Brain jogging need be nothing special. Doing crossword puzzles, visiting and chatting with people and even writing letters, all of which combine mental and physical exercise, are effective means of helping to forestall IQ fatigue.

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Hadlee wrecks England

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (R) — England's cricketers ran into a verbal and bowling assault by New Zealand all-rounder Richard Hadlee on the second day of the second test here Saturday.

Having condemned England's bowlers for performing unprofessionally on the first day, Hadlee wrecked England's batting by taking three wickets for no run in seven balls. England subsided to 10 for four and at the close were 53 for seven, needing 58 more runs to avoid following on against New Zealand for the first time.

Hadlee has towered over the first two days of this match, having made 49 Friday out of a New Zealand first innings total of 307. He caused the touring side further discomfort Saturday by strongly criticising their bowlers for their consistent waywardness.

"It was always on that if you bowled line and length, which they (the England bowlers) didn't, you could keep the other side's score

down," Hadlee said. "It's hard to understand why we saw that sort of bowling from English pros who are used to bowling a lot. They can't be happy with that performance."

England, seven for one overnight, lost six wickets in a disastrous 90-minute session after rain delayed the start until 4.30 p.m.

In two maiden overs Hadlee dismissed opener Chris Tavare, David Gower and Derek Randall to send England staggering to 10 for four. He had Tavare caught at first slip by Jeff Crowe for three, trapped Gower lbw for two, the batsman offering no stroke to a ball which ducked in, and two balls later removed Derek Randall, caught in the slips by Jeremy

Conroy.

Hadlee bowled from a short run on a pitch which was not affected by the day's rain but maintained the uneven pace and bounce which New Zealand overcame so well in their first innings.

Ian Botham and Allan Lamb looked capable of guiding England to safety but after they put on 31 for the fifth wicket, Botham, hitting out unnecessarily, was caught on the backward square boundary hooking at Lance Cairns.

Lamb went before another run was added, caught behind off Ewen Chatfield, and at 47 Bob Taylor was seventh out, presenting Jeff Crowe with his second slip catch and Cairns with his second wicket.

With Mike Gatting the only recognised batsman left, New Zealand will aim to leave him without partners Sunday and England to follow on. Another target for England will be to pass 64, their previous lowest score against New Zealand in Wellington six years ago.

West Indies beats Pakistan in World Series Cup cricket

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Ope-ner Desmond Haynes overcame an early attack of the horrors to steer the West Indies to an effort-ful seven wicket victory over Pakistan in the World Series Cup cricket match at the WACA ground here Saturday.

Haynes was most unconvincing early, but gradually blossomed to play some attractive shots in his unbeaten 78.

When part-time bowler Mansoor Akhtar sent down a bouncer to Haynes which was adjudged a wide by umpire Dick French — the West Indies had won with five overs to spare.

It was a convincing workout by the West Indies before its final qualifying match against Australia Sunday.

But it was a disappointing finale to the Pakistani tour of Australia, which saw the team lose the five-test series 2-1 and win only one of its 10 world series cup matches.

Viv Richards, deputising as captain in the absence of Clive Lloyd, was voted the man of the match on a split verdict for his sparkling inn-

ings of 40.

Haynes struggled grimly and battled for his timing at the start of the West Indies innings, and after 18 overs had scored only nine runs.

After 27 overs, he had taken his total to 19 runs off 72 balls but finally found touch with superb cuts and off-drives to with eight boundaries.

Despite Haynes early struggles, the West Indies got away to a flying start through Richard Gabriel, who hammered five fours from 31 balls before going for a huge drive from medium-pace Mudasar Nazar and edging a catch to wicket-keeper Ashraf Ali.

Leg-spinner Abdul Qadir was brought into the attack, and his flight and spin mesmerised both Haynes and Richie Richardson.

Both batsmen were all at sea against Qadir, whose first six overs cost only seven runs.

Richardson, frustrated at being tied down, particularly by Qadir, went for an indiscreet hook at Mudasar Nazar and skied a catch

back to the bowler.

Richards arrived and immediately set about Qadir, cutting him for two, sweeping him to the fine leg fence and straight driving a single in the spinner's seventh over.

Richards was dismissed when he danced down the pitch to off-spinner Ejaz Faqih and lofted a catch to Salim Malik at deep mid-wicket.

Earlier, Mudasar Nazar defied a hostile West Indies fast attack in scoring a typically resolute 54 off 117 balls in 140 minutes.

After Mansoor had cut a wishful delivery from Winston Davis straight into Joel Garner's hands at backward point, Mudasar and Mohsin Khan put on 75 for the second wicket in 85 minutes before Mohsin departed for 32.

It was an encouraging performance by Mohsin, who announced his retirement last Monday and then changed his mind two days later. He stroked the ball fluently and hit a six over square leg off fast-medium bowler Eldine Baptiste.

Noah beats Connors, reaches top in group 'A'

TORONTO (R) — Yannick Noah of France produced 11 service aces on his way to beating American Jimmy Connors 6-4, 6-4 Friday night in the \$250,000 Toronto Challenge tennis tournament.

The win gave Noah top spot in group 'A' of the eight-man event with three wins out of three and he will now meet Poland's Wojtek Fibak who beat American Gene Mayer 6-2, 6-1 to finish second in group 'B'. But the Pole said he would need divine assistance when he faced Noah's serve Saturday.

Connors, second in group 'A', will play group 'B' winner Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, who thrashed Guillermo Vilas of Argentina 6-1, 6-2.

In another match Friday night, Glenn Michibata of Toronto scored an upset 7-6 (7-1), 6-4 win over Spain's Jose Higueras, ranked seventh in the world.

Noah, who had lost his four meetings with Connors before this year, has now beaten him twice in the last three weeks. "He doesn't like my game when I serve this well. I think he missed a lot of easy shots," said the French open champion.

Connors found it painful to stretch or bend after injuring his neck on Thursday against Higueras. He underwent sonic treatment immediately after the Noah match. Asked if he would play Saturday, Connors said: "I hope so."

Denton ousts Arias

RICHMOND, Virginia (R) — Seventh-seeded Steve Denton survived a match point in his third set match with second-seeded fellow American Jimmy Arias Friday night to win 7-5, 4-6, 7-5 in the \$100,000 Richmond Classic Tennis tournament.

Arias, ranked sixth in the world, double-faulted twice in the tenth game, then made another error to lose the game.

Denton, ranked 54th in the world, held service and broke Arias in the 12th game for the

match. Fourth-seeded Vitas Gerulaitis survived a difficult match against sixth-seeded Eric Korita, also American, to win 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.

Top-seeded John McEnroe defeated Stefan Edberg of Sweden 6-3, 6-2 and is to meet Gerulaitis in the semi-finals Saturday night. Edberg was seeded eighth.

In a match between two unseeded Americans, Mark Dickson beat Greg Holmes 7-6, 6-4. The winner meets Denton in Saturday night's other semi-final.

Mandlikova trounces Bassett

HOUSTON, Texas (AP) — Third-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia needed only 32 minutes to defeat Carling Bassett of Canada 6-1, 6-1 Friday to earn a semifinals position in the \$150,000 Virginia Slims of Houston Tennis tournament.

Top-seeded Andrea Jaeger was to meet seventh-seeded Australian Wendy Turnbull, and sixth-seeded Zina Garrison of the United States was to play Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria in later quarter-finals matches.

Bassett had breezed to two easy tournament victories but could not match Mandlikova's power. Bassett broke Mandlikova in the sixth game of the second set and won the first two points of the seventh game before Mandlikova took the next four points and the match.

Mandlikova's opponent in Saturday's semifinals will be Barbara Potter of the United States, who defeated Eva Pfaff of West Germany, 7-6, 6-3.

2,000 run around Peking

PEKING (AP) — Nearly 2,000 runners including 17 from Belgium and Japan, Saturday ran in the annual Spring Festival race around Peking, but unlike last year a Chinese won the men's event.

Guo Guanghui, a student at the Peking Sports Institute, beat his 1,429 rivals, finishing the 25.32-kilometre (15.69-mile) men's course in 1:22.16 hours. Last year, Japan's Osamu Sato won the men's event in 1:20.38 hours.

JCC to hold meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Olympic Committee (JCC) will hold a meeting Tuesday at the Youth City. The meeting will be presided over by Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah Owaidat. Jordan's participation at the Los Angeles Olympics next June will be discussed at the meeting.

When the great Brazilian soccer star Pele joined the New York Cosmos club in 1975, many foresaw a blissful marriage of the world's most popular sport to its most dynamic society.

Nine years later, soccer and the United States have their problems, but their union has proved remarkably fruitful.

Pele arrived in New York as the most admired athlete on earth, and enthusiasts could envision millions of American boys imitating him and, shortly, their local North American Soccer League (NASL) heroes. Playing soccer as intensely as they do baseball and football, these youngsters would form a pool from which a national team could be formed capable of competing with Brazil and Italy in the World Cups of 1986 or 1990.

Since that time, however, Pele has retired, and even some of the better professional teams around the United States have disbanded for lack of fan support. "Team America," a special North American Soccer League team formed

in 1983 as the nucleus of a U.S. national team for the 1986 World Cup, faces financial and other difficulties which threaten its continued success and even existence barely a year after it was formed. Nonetheless, soccer has flourished in the United States beyond all reasonable expectation. Millions of boys are indeed playing soccer now, as are millions of girls, and men and women — as many as eight million in all, by one account.

Since 1974-5 the number of players registered in youth soccer leagues has increased tenfold, from about 100,000 to more than a million. Similar increases were seen in high school and university soccer. For example, there were only 28 high schools that sponsored girls' soccer teams in 1971-2. Today there are more than 2,000, and the number of girls participating was increased from about 700 to nearly 50,000.

University soccer teams have increased from approximately 160 teams in 1959 to 532 in three divisions in 1983, and the recent Division One Collegiate Athletic Association offers particular grounds for optimism about U.S. soccer.

The University of Indiana won the 1983 soccer title, defeating Columbia University 1-0. It was the second consecutive championship for Indiana and, significantly, it was won with an almost all-American team: 16 of the 18 players on the team were born and reared in the United States (the 17th was born in Italy but reared in the United States), as was their coach, Jerry Yeagley. This is in contrast to previous years, when imported players and coaches set the standards.

In an interview with the U.S. Information Agency, Yeagley said that many good athletes are now choosing to play soccer, whereas in the past the best athletes almost always went to U.S.-style football or basketball. He has an expanding pool of gifted soccer players from which to recruit for his university team. Moreover, he says that all his starting seniors of the past few years have received attractive offers from professional teams, a development which provides additional motivation for good athletes to choose soccer.

Yeagley has been the coach at Indiana for 21 years, but for the first ten years soccer was only an intramural and not an official varsity sport. So he is doubly pleased at the success of his team on the

Forest, West Ham narrow gap at English soccer

LONDON (R) — Although they seldom need outside help in such matters, Liverpool's quest for a seventh English Soccer Championship in nine seasons received some valuable assistance from unexpected quarters Saturday.

For although Liverpool surrendered two valuable points in a goalless draw at Sunderland, the rest of the chasing pack also slipped up and remain some way behind in the leaders' rear-view mirror.

Manchester United, starting the day five points adrift, failed to move any closer when they could only draw 1-1 at home with Norwich, while Nottingham Forest slipped to fourth by drawing 2-2 with visiting Tottenham.

That allowed West Ham to slip into third place on goal difference with a remarkable 3-1 home win over Stoke — despite the fact they were missing seven first-team regulars through injury.

When the dust had settled, the top of the table was virtually unchanged with Liverpool, who have played one game more than their rivals, on 52 points, followed by United (47) and West Ham and Forest on 46.

Sunderland, who beat Liverpool at Anfield earlier this season, showed no inferiority complex and created the best chance of the game in the 32nd minute.

A Robbie James corner arrived at the feet of top-scorer Gary Rowell, but, with the goal at his mercy, he delayed too long and

little Sammy Lee materialised from nowhere to clear the Sunderland striker's effort off the line.

Missing talents

Liverpool, missing the combined talents of injured Scottish stars Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness, seldom carried any threat up front and were more than thankful to leave Roker Park with one point.

United were even more disappointing against Norwich at Old Trafford and there is a growing feeling that some of their players are already resigned to the runners-up spot.

However, with West Ham running into form, United may have a fight on their hands just to finish second.

"The Hammers", whose crippling injury list includes England international Trevor Brooking, Alan Devonshire and Alvin Martin, demolished Stoke with a tremendous display of attacking soccer.

West Ham took a sixth minute lead through reserve winger Bobby Barnes and they moved further ahead in the 36th minute when striker Tony Cottee scored his ninth goal of the season after a superb solo run.

Fullback Ray Stewart put the issue beyond doubt 15 minutes from time when he converted a penalty.

Forest looked poised to take over second place from United when they led Tottenham 2-1 with just two minutes remaining.

But some slack marking in defence allowed Tottenham to grab an unexpected equaliser through fullback Chris Hughton.

At the bottom of the table, Notts County, Stoke and Wolverhampton, all of whom had already lost their first game, look certain to be dropped to division two next season. But the battle to replace them is far from clear-cut with six teams in contention for the three promotion places.

Chelsea remained two points clear at the top with a 3-1 win over Huddersfield but have played two games more than their rivals.

European Cup-Winners' Cup holders Aberdeen took a giant step toward the Scottish Premier League championship with a hard-fought 1-1 home win over second-placed Glasgow Celtic.

An early goal from striker John Hewitt, who scored the winning goal in last season's Cup-Winners' final against Real Madrid in Athens, proved decisive but Celtic came close to salvaging a point in the dying seconds.

Brian McLeish unleashed a tremendous volley which looked netbound all the way until Scotland goalkeeper Jim Leighton hurled himself across goal to pull off a breathtaking — and match-winning — save.

The result took Aberdeen onto the 35-point mark, six ahead of Celtic and nine ahead of champions Dundee United, who did not play and now have two games in hand.

Italy crushes Mexico in friendly soccer match

ROME (R) — Paolo Rossi scored a hat-trick as world champions Italy crushed Mexico 5-1 in a friendly soccer international at the Olympic stadium here Saturday.

The Italians stamped their authority on the game from the opening seconds and by the interval had built a 4-1 lead.

It was Italy's most convincing victory since the 1982 World Cup final and was a welcome boost after their wretched run of results in the European championships.

The ceremonial band had hardly left the pitch before Giuseppe Dossetta advanced down the left to cross for Salvatore Bagni to sidestep a shot past Ferreira in the Mexican goal.

Ten minutes later Rossi seized on an error by Trejo to draw the

goalkeeper and crash home the second. It was a typical piece of opportunism by Rossi and a vindication of his continued selection despite several poor performances last year.

After 37 minutes a long clearance from the Italian half found Sandro Altobelli speeding down the left and his accurate cross found Rossi perfectly positioned to make it 3-1.

Almost on the halftime whistle, Antonio Cabrini broke clear down the Mexicans' vulnerable right flank.

Ferreira appeared to have felled his low drive but when it slipped through his grasp there was Rossi again to complete his first hat-trick.

Italian Manager Enzo Bearzot gave Sergio Battistini his first team debut after the interval in place of Rossi. He also substituted Fanna for Dossetta and put Giovanni Galli in goal.

Mexico's second-half changes, Olaf Heredia for Ferreira and Chaves for Luna, did not prevent Italy increasing their lead.

In the 50th minute, Roma winger Bruno Conti took advantage of confusion in the Mexican penalty box to unleash a thunderbolt that left the new keeper unslighted.

Bearzot told reporters he had not expected to beat Mexico by such a clear margin.

"But this is only one step forward," he said. "I hope we are getting nearer to the eventual team for 1986."

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Fast bowler Lillee back in action

PERTH, Western Australia (R) — Fast bowler Dennis Lillee was back playing cricket Saturday — two days after being suspended by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB).

Lillee succeeded in getting a supreme court order served on the Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) Saturday morning which enabled him to turn out for his club Melville in a match against Southern Districts.

Lillee, 34, who announced his retirement from test cricket last month, was suspended on Thursday by ACB chief Bob Merriman for defying the umpires in a Sheffield Shield match in Brisbane last weekend and taking a drinks break.

He was suspended for Western Australia's next two shield matches and all other cricket until March 1.

Merriman also decided Lillee should pay a 1,000 dollar suspended fine imposed on him last year in Adelaide for allegedly using abusive language towards spectators during a Sheffield Shield match.

The order waiving the suspension lasts until 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday and a court injunction is expected to follow.

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International credits increase in January

PARIS (R) — Borrowing on international capital markets rose to a provisional \$15.4 billion in January from \$12.2 billion in December, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Friday.

The higher borrowing through international bonds, foreign bonds and bank syndicated credits reflected continued heavy demand by top-quality borrowers and more favourable interest rates, the OECD said in a statement.

Funds raised by developing countries mainly in the Far East surged to \$7.01 billion from \$1.59 billion in December.

Borrowing by the 24 OECD member states fell to \$7.86 billion from \$8.28 billion, despite heavy external financing by Belgium, Canada and Denmark and by U.S. and Japanese companies.

Gross new capital market borrowing was running at an annual rate of around \$150 billion in November, December and January, up from \$122 billion in the previous three months, the OECD said.

Paris, Moscow sign \$1.2b economic pact

PARIS (R) — France and the Soviet Union Friday signed an economic cooperation agreement worth \$1.2 billion, French official said.

Paris hopes the new deal will help wipe out its persistent trade deficit with Moscow.

The contract was signed by French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy and by Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister Ivaan Arkhipov at the end of his five-day visit.

It aims at boosting French exports to the Soviet Union to compensate for French imports of Soviet natural gas.

Under the deal France will raise its agricultural exports to the Soviet Union by 15 per cent.

The agreement is also designed to promote French sales of petrochemical products.

In addition it provides for French help in modernisation of Soviet dairy factories and ship construction and further development of gas and oil fields as well as other aspects of industry.

West Germany, France's leading rival for Soviet contracts in many spheres, already has a long-term economic cooperation agreement with Moscow.

Moscow intensifies incentives programme

MOSCOW (AP) — The ruling politburo on Friday announced an expansion of its programme of limited economic experiments, adding service industries in seven areas to the list of enterprises that will be allowed to assume more decision-making power.

Last year, the Communist Party authorised five ministries to begin giving local managers more power to allocate financial and capital resources in an effort to make industry more efficient and less hampered by decisions made by faraway officials.

The programme was billed as an effort to streamline a system that often assigns unrealistic production quotas and gives managers little incentive to produce above their assigned production. But Soviet officials stressed it would in no way mean fundamental changes in the centralised economic system.

The experiments, seen as the centerpiece of President Yuri V. Andropov's efforts to give more energy to the Soviet economy, was to begin in January in the national ministries of heavy and transport machinery and the electrotechnical industry, the Ukrainian ministry of food industry, the Byelorussian ministry of light industry and the Lithuanian ministry of local industry.

In its account of politburo's regular Thursday meeting, the TASS news agency on Friday reported that the ruling body discussed the economic experiments and decided to expand them to the services industries of seven areas — Komi, Altai, Astrakhan, Ivanovsk, Kemerovo, Saratov and Yaroslavl.

As in its earlier announcements on the economic programme, the politburo said managers of "service industries" in the region would be given more "economic independence," specifically in deciding how to use resources allocated to their industries.

Surveys indicate new oil deposits in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Seismological surveys have shown encouraging signs of new oil deposits in Kuwait, which already has among the world's biggest oil reserves, a senior oil official was quoted Saturday as saying.

Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Deputy Chairman Faisal Al Kazmawi told the daily newspaper Al Anba' in an interview that test drilling on one structure was expected to produce oil at a depth of 13,000 feet, which he said would be reached shortly.

He did not give the exact location of the well but said the deposit was thought to be very large.

Kuwait's current oil output is estimated at around its OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) quota of 1.05 million barrels a day, and its proven reserves stand at more than 65 billion barrels — almost a tenth of the world total.

The newspaper also quoted Mr. Kazmawi as saying Kuwait was seriously thinking of importing gas "simply for economic reasons, especially when demand on power increases during summer." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Kazmawi said KOC's Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Oil Exploration Company (Kufpec) affiliate, of which he is also deputy chairman, had received more than 100 invitations to explore for oil in more than 40 countries.

A contract for oil exploration in Pakistan would be signed soon, he added.

African conference ends amid uncertainty

LUSAKA (R) — A two-day conference aimed at stepping up aid to the black states of southern Africa ended Friday with earnest pledges of support but an uncertain financial response.

The nine states of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) had gone into the meeting with 50 developed countries and international agencies hoping for a massive boost in aid to counter a three-year drought crippling most of its members.

SADCC officials, who before the meeting had set \$300 million as the target needed to prevent the drought causing a financial disaster, declined to disclose what amounts had actually been pledged.

But several delegates said amounts of new funds promised to the group had been small and instead, SADCC was told by a number of countries that — as a regional development group — it was the wrong body to deal with urgently needed relief assistance.

SADCC had no mechanism for simply distributing such aid, which by necessity had to be channelled directly to the countries affected, they added.

SADCC was founded in Lusaka

four years ago by Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe to foster joint development and counter the economic influence of white-ruled South Africa in the region.

The drought, which had been billed as the meeting's main item of discussion, was broken at the beginning of the week in large areas of the SADCC region, with cyclone Domoina causing widespread damage and loss of life in Mozambique, Swaziland and Eastern South Africa.

Senior SADCC ministers said, however, they doubted the rains would be sufficient to save the bulk of this year's crops.

Conference Chairman Peter Mmusi, vice-president of Botswana, told a press conference after the talks ended that SADCC had not received the \$300 million sought at this point.

"But ultimately I have no doubt we will get it," he added.

An official communiqué said, without giving details, "firm commitments of substantial financial and technical support were made."

It described the discussions as constructive and valuable.

Firm predicts higher metals prices in 1984

LONDON (AP) — Higher average free market prices for many base and precious metals were forecast last week by the London Metals Research Unit of Shearson-American Express.

An exception is likely to be gold, the unit said.

The improvement foreseen in prices, which the unit believes could take aluminium to a record high this year is based on an assessment of a modest, but strengthened world economic recovery.

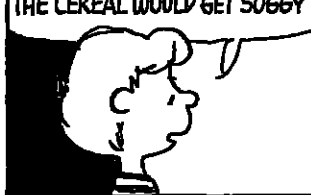
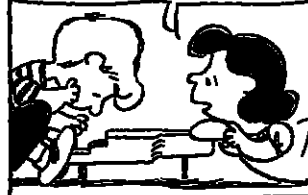
Growth in member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the unit said, should rise to 3 to 3.5 per cent, against 2.5 per cent in 1983.

The analysts also foresee a decline in the overvalued U.S. dollar this year, which should stimulate trade in commodities. However, the timing of the fall, it said, would depend on interest rate movements and political factors.

Peanuts

IF WE WERE MARRIED, I'D FIX YOUR COLD CEREAL FOR YOU EVERY MORNING...

AND THEN YOU'D PROBABLY TALK THE WHOLE TIME SO I COULDN'T EAT, AND THE CEREAL WOULD GET SOGGY



Mutt 'n' Jeff

WAITER! YOUR PRICES ARE ABSURD!!

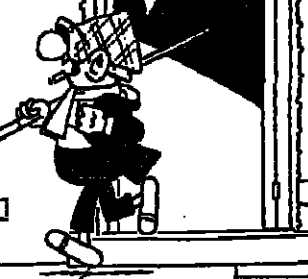
I CAN'T AFFORD YOUR "PLEASANT UNDER GLASS!"



Andy Capp

I'M OFF, PET — SEE YOU

NOT AGAIN?!



Spain firm to overhaul industry

MADRID (R) — Spain's Economy Minister Miguel Boyer said in an interview published Saturday that the socialist government would go ahead with plans to restructure top-heavy industries despite massive protests by workers against job cuts.

"The overhaul of industry will take place this year. Last year was a year of mental preparation but despite the hardships, the restructuring will begin immediately," Mr. Boyer told the leading Spanish daily newspaper El Pais.

Trade unions said nearly half a million workers took part in strikes and protests Friday and on Thursday to oppose the proposed cuts in the loss-making steel, shipbuilding and metal sectors in which more than 60,000 jobs are threatened.

The 14-month-old government says the restructuring plans, passed by decree last November, are essential to make industry more efficient and competitive before Spain's planned entry into the European Community in 1986.

But both the communist-led Workers' Commissions Trade Union (CCOO) and the socialist-backed General Workers' Union (UGT) are demanding negotiations over the cuts and refuse to accept the cancellation of job contracts.

Spain's minority Communist Party (PCE) said in a statement the strikes were a warning to the government to change plans and seek to restructure industry without workers being sacked.

During the two days of protest, police and striking workers clashed in the northern Cantabrian region and in the Basque country, where steelworks and shipyards are expected to be hard hit by the government's restructuring plans.

Police arrested five workers Friday as they blocked roads with barricades formed by buses and blazing tyres.

The UGT has agreed in principle on a need to rationalise industry but objects to permanent lay-offs.

It calls for temporary contract suspensions and early retirement schemes.

Officials from the socialist-backed union accused CCOO leaders of seeking a labour war with government.

"CCOO's position is that of a political group and not a union," UGT spokesman Mr. Aurelio Carrasco said.

CCOO has said it will not accept a single job loss until it has guarantees that areas affected by the

cuts will be reindustrialised and jobs found for workers made redundant.

Both UGT and CCOO officials said they would propose a general strike in the Basque region on Feb. 17 to protest against a government decision to approve the cancelling of 818 job contracts at a specialised steel consortium in the region.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEB. 5, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day that is likely to be replete with delays, obstacles and broken promises unless each of us makes a point to be watchful, kind and thoughtful. Accept whatever happens as an opportunity.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Although you may feel hemmed in, don't let it upset you and go along with present situations. Avoid arguments.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Handle your own affairs yourself today since friends and acquaintances could be disappointing. Enjoy a quiet evening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Not a good day to be in the outside world or to argue with any higher-ups. Think over credit affairs and plan to pay soon.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Seriously study any philosophical matters and get the most out of them. Keep out of trouble and be happy.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Don't take any risks in conversations with others today, since everyone seems to be under some kind of tension.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) It is best to be cooperative with any partners since opposition could bring much trouble. Take things in stride.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Forget business worries which can best be handled tomorrow and get a good day's rest. Enjoy a quiet evening at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A good day to really live the good life and be kind toward others who are having difficulties. Don't overspend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You and kin may feel hemmed in today, but let faith make you more courageous and outgoing. Avoid moot subjects.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may be feeling pugnacious today, so calm down and be more objective and thoughtful. Take time for study.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If going over financial status, plan how to save more money in the future instead of spending it. Seek advisors.

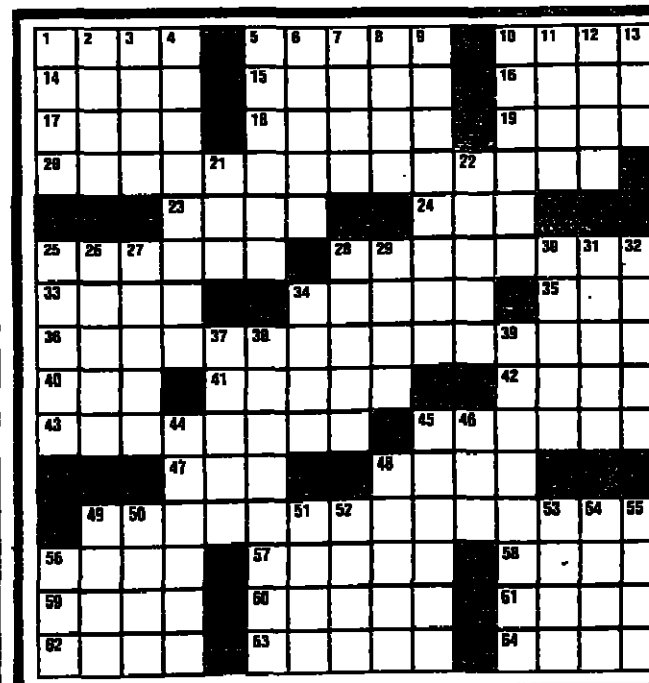
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You feel upset and irate today, so think pleasant thoughts and go to charming places and snap out of it. Avoid large groups.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will always be wanting to change things to his or her liking, feeling that nothing is really as it should be. Slant the education along the lines of trouble-shooting so that the most can be made of this natural bent.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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THE Daily Crossword By Albert J. Klaus

ACROSS	25 Made ready	48 Islamic	22 Composer
1 Forever — day	26 Competitive business	49 B.A.	25 More courageous
5 Hello hello	37 Toward	50 Sensible	26 Make
10 Chicken	38 Shattered	51 Sulk	27 Jubilant
14 Something borrowed	39 Lukewarm	52 Use a mangle	28 Author of fables
15 Mixed	40 Spitting	53 Frankie the singer	29 Nourished anew
16 Offspring	41 M.S.	54 Vagrant	30 Church part
17 A.D. word	42 WW II	55 Fast time	31 Small boat
18 Bare or Clapton	43 Recipient	56 Icelandic literary	32 Surpass
19 Bay	44 "Trees," for one	57 Merganser	33 Appears
20 Liquefy	45 Changed the cost of	58 DOWN	34 Musical sound
21 Olive genus	46 Gazelles	1 Guinness	37 Dame —
24 Religious speech; abbr.	47 Ordinal suffix	2 — Bayes	38 Actress
		3 Speaker's platform	39 Tomb inscriptions
		4 Recluse	44 Late
		5 Trued	45 Workshops
		6 Actress	46 Br. sky
		7 Make eyes at	48 Sports arena
		8 Cad	49 Nude
		9 Aesthetic	50 Shortly
		10 Picture taker	51 Cargo
		11 Something unique	52 Roman poet
		12 S.R.O. word	53 S.R.O. word
		13 Cooking vessel	54 Inflated casing
		21 Shout at bullfights	55 Store away
			56 R.S.V.P. word



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THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"My boss got the holiday spirit today. First he decorated his desk, then all the offices, then..."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAUNN
ROGUD
BOMERY
APEARD

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RANCH AGILE CLOUDY SINGLE
Answer: What goes up the stairs on its head? — A NAIL IN A SHOE

Andy Capp

WAITER! YOUR PRICES ARE ABSURD!!

I CAN'T AFFORD YOUR "PLEASANT UNDER GLASS!"

I UNDERSTAND, SIR...

HOW ABOUT MEAT LOAF UNDER GLASS?

I'M OFF, PET — SEE YOU

NOT AGAIN?!

HE'S IN A RUT, FLO

A RUT? RUBE, THAT BLOKE'S IN ORBIT

Honduras denies attacking Nicaraguan military bases

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova has denied Nicaraguan charges that his country's aircraft attacked army bases in northern Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan government said Honduran ground attack jets and spotter planes raided military bases and an Agriculture Ministry Communications Centre, killing four people and wounding 11.

It said the air strikes were carried out on Thursday and again Friday in Chinandega Province.

Mr. Suazo Cordova told Reuters Friday night: "It is completely false that Honduran planes attacked a Nicaraguan base."

A Honduran Foreign Ministry statement said Nicaragua's accusations were reckless and aimed at justifying their huge arms build-up and policy of inter-

vention and hostility towards other Central American countries.

The U.N. Security Council met Friday night at Nicaragua's request to consider the charges but adjourned without taking any action.

At the Security Council meeting, the United States denied Nicaraguan statements that it was implicated in the raids.

Earlier, a U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebel group claimed responsibility for an attack in Chinandega province on Thursday but said it had been carried by forces on the ground with the help of

one light aircraft.

Mr. Adolfo Calero, principal leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) which is fighting the leftist Sandinista government, told reporters in Washington that his guerrillas had destroyed the main transmitting tower of Radio Venceremos, a clandestine broadcasting station for left-wing Salvadoran rebels.

Last month, high-ranking Salvadoran army officers said they had been unable to silence Radio Venceremos because its main transmitter was in Nicaraguan territory.

However, Nicaraguan Defence Minister Humberto Ortega told a gathering in honour of the four people killed in the attacks that the installations destroyed belonged to Nicaragua, not Salvadoran rebels.

U.S. rejects charges

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States, denouncing "hysterical allegations" of aggression, has rejected a Nicaraguan charge at the Security Council of involvement in attacks by warplanes from Honduras that killed four soldiers and wounded eight.

The Security Council adjourned Friday night without taking any action on complaint by the Managua government that Washington through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was implicated in raids on military targets by Honduras-based planes Friday and Thursday.

Honduras also called the accusation completely unfounded, saying no military aircraft had left its base, as charged by Nicaragua's left-wing Sandinista government.

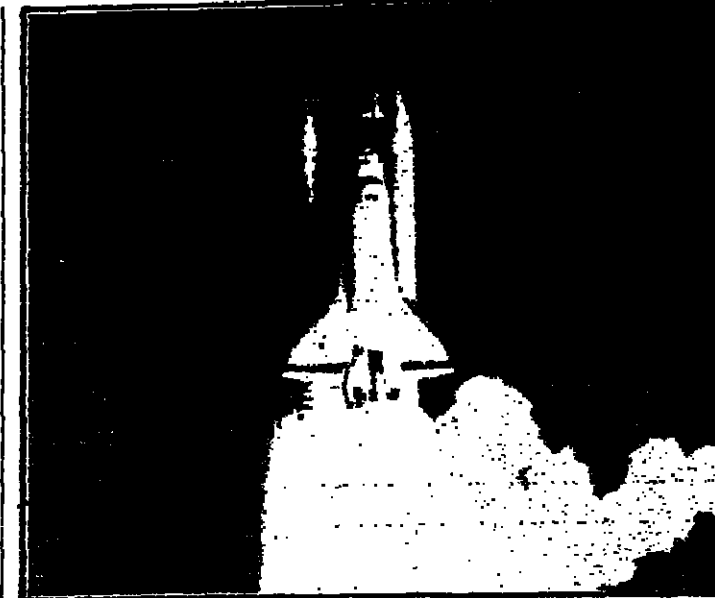
Thatcher says West seeks accord

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, stressing Britain and her allies wanted arms reduction accords with the Soviet Bloc, called on the United States and the Soviet Union to resume disarmament talks in Geneva.

In a toast at a dinner, given in her honour by Hungarian Premier Gyorgy Lazar, Mrs. Thatcher said, "This is the time to talk, the time to negotiate, the time to succeed."

Mrs. Thatcher arrived Thursday night for her first visit to a Soviet Bloc country and expressed willingness to meet other Eastern leaders as well.

Referring to the Soviet pullout from the arms control talks with the United States in Geneva last December, she said "the need is urgent" to resume negotiations on reducing nuclear weapons in Europe.



U.S. space shuttle Challenger takes off into space Friday from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida (AP wirephoto)

Communication satellite disappears in space

KENNEDY Space Centre, Florida (R) — A communications satellite deployed by the space shuttle Challenger disappeared early Saturday, and officials on the ground said they did not know what had happened.

"Communication with the satellite was lost shortly after deployment," a spokeswoman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said early Saturday.

"A ground station thought it had contact," she said, adding that no other station around the world was able to pick up a signal from the satellite, which belongs to the Western Union Company.

Reporters were told earlier that the satellite was delivered into space routinely and was propelled towards its ultimate altitude by a booster rocket called a Payload Assist Module (PAM).

PAMs had been used on five previous satellite deployments on other shuttle flights and all had worked as expected.

The NASA spokeswoman, Betty Johnson, said that no one had any idea what happened to the satellite, called Westar.

"We're still looking for Westar," a NASA spokesman in mission control said more than four hours after the satellite had been reported successfully deployed.

Ms. Johnson said all NASA's ground tracking stations around the world were searching for a signal from Westar but none was heard.

She said that the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD), which keeps track of all objects orbiting the earth, had also been called into the search.

Both NASA and NORAD were

Taxi robber to lose hand, foot

KARACHI (R) — A Karachi court has ordered the amputation of a taxi robber's right hand and left foot, the court said Saturday. The man, named only as Rahmat, was convicted of robbing the taxi driver and driving off in the vehicle in November. Pakistan's highest Islamic court, the Federal Shariat Court, must approve the sentence, imposed on Thursday, before it is carried out. Similar sentences passed in the last five years since military ruler General Muhammad Zia Ul-Haq introduced Islamic Laws have not been received federal court approval.

Man gets approval to fast to death

SYRACUSE, New York (R) — An 85-year-old retired college president who is attempting suicide by fasting has had his right to die upheld by a state supreme court justice. The man, whose identity is being kept secret on his court's order, has refused food since Dec. 21 at the nursing home where he is confined in a wheelchair. His family says although he has had a distinguished career and once represented the United States on technological matters in France and India, he is depressed by failing health and wishes to die. The nursing home reported the man's fast to the city's Health Department last month and, as his condition declined, asked Justice Donald Miller to advise it of its rights and responsibilities towards the patient.

Britons save injured Soviet seaman

PORT STANLEY (R) — An injured Soviet seaman has been rushed 800 miles to hospital in the Falkland Islands after being winched by helicopter from his trawler, British military spokesmen said Saturday. The unnamed 26-year-old seaman suffered severe head injuries in an accident on board the Soviet trawler Kotelnich in the South Atlantic. A British Sea King military helicopter transferred him in high winds to the navy supply ship Otter for the voyage to Port Stanley. Doctors said the seaman also had pneumonia and was very seriously ill.

Trawler catches Soviet submarine

OSLO (R) — A Norwegian trawler caught a submarine, believed by the naval command to be Russian, in its nets while fishing in Soviet waters off Murmansk, it skipper said. Alf Roymo told Reuters by telephone that the incident took place as the 50-metre long vessel Vestind and another trawler were helping the Norwegian oceanographic ship G.O. Sars to catch fish for scientific studies. He said crewmen on the Vestind suddenly felt their vessel being dragged backwards at great speed and had to cut out of the trawl wires to release the submarine. No one was hurt. They did not see the sub but the naval command at Bodoe in northern Norway said the effect was caused by a submarine, most probably a Soviet one from the Nordic Fleet stationed near Murmansk.

Ointment turns women off male pill

LONDON (R) — French women grew moustaches after their sex partners took part in a trial of a male contraceptive, their doctors said Friday. In a letter published in the British medical journal, the Lancet, the doctors said 17 men are given a daily pill to suppress sperm production. But a special ointment containing the male hormone testosterone, which the men used to keep up their sex drive, seemed to have penetrated the skin of the female partners during intercourse, they said. "After a few months (the women) noted moderate hair growth on the upper lip — that is a moustache — and on the inner side of the thighs," they said. The doctors, from the Louis Moutier Hospital at Colombes, on the outskirts of Paris, said four couples had abandoned the experiment because of the problem. They did not say whether the method was effective. But they advised men to apply the ointment in the morning rather than at night and to take a shower afterwards.

Soviet defence minister postpones visit to India

NEW DELHI (R) — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov has abruptly postponed a visit to India due to begin on Monday. The Indian Defence Ministry announced Saturday.

The Soviet embassy declined to give a reason for the sudden change of plans, but a senior Indian official said Moscow had cited what were termed Ustinov's domestic preoccupations.

Some Western diplomats said the decision could be related to the health of Soviet President Yuri Andropov, who has not been seen in public for nearly six months.

The Defence Ministry said the trip was put off at the Soviet request and no new date had yet been fixed.

Indian diplomats were working right up until the last minute on arrangements for the visit, which had been expected to reinforce the already close military and trade

ties between Delhi and the Kremlin.

Informed Indian sources said Marshal Ustinov's trip was arranged in place of planned winter visit to Delhi by Mr. Andropov.

The trip by Marshal Ustinov, a senior member of the Soviet politburo, would have followed a current visit by a weighty Soviet team headed by Deputy Premier Veniamin Dymshits which came for celebrations Saturday marking 25 years of close Indo-Soviet industrial cooperation.

Mr. Dymshits is accompanied by Nikolai Goldin, minister for construction of heavy industrial enterprises who is also president of the Indo-Soviet Friendship Society, and Yakov Ryabov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

Moscow charges U.S. of deliberately aggravating ties

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Communist Party on Friday accused Washington of "deliberately aggravating" relations with Moscow and launching the dirtiest acts of provocation against the Soviet Bloc.

The charges came from the policy-setting Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party in a statement released by the official Tass News Agency that summarised Soviet foreign policy in advance of the March 4 national elections.

The statement, addressed to voters, told Soviet citizens that "the Washington administration is deliberately aggravating relations with the Soviet Union and resorting to dirtiest acts of provocation against Socialist countries."

"It foiled the talks on the limitation and reduction of nuclear arms in Europe," the statement said.

The summary was similar to

other positions taken by the Soviets since Soviet-American relations plunged to their lowest point in years in September, when the Soviets downed a South Korean airliner with 269 people on board.

The Central Committee document, which was timed for release during the main evening television news, reiterated that the Soviet people "unanimously" support President Yuri Andropov's recent statements on foreign policy and Soviet retaliation for deployment of new U.S. missiles by NATO.

Although the Central Committee document took a pessimistic view of superpower relations and world tension as a whole, it did say the situation "should not be overestimated."

The statement concluded by reiterating that the Soviet Union is "carrying out the struggle" to "safeguard peace and to avert nuclear catastrophe."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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THE POWER OF SUGGESTION

his side was going to take two spade tricks and the trump ace, but where was the setting trick going to come from? South surely held six hearts to the king-queen, so it looked as if declarer was going to prevail.

East realized that his one hope was that his partner held the nine of hearts. So at trick one he started an echo with the seven of spades. West dutifully continued with the ace of spades, and East completed the false picture of his hand by following with the two. Now West led a third spade.

East had convinced declarer that he had started with only two spades. So declarer opted to ruff the third spade on the table, instead of letting it ride round to his queen. East's coup had succeeded. He now had two sure trump tricks when his partner turned up with the nine, and a seemingly unbeatable contract had bitten the dust.

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 105
♥ J10
♦ AKJ73

WEST EAST
♠ AKJ83 ♠ 762
♥ 9 ♥ A873
♦ 942 ♦ Q106
♣ J1095 ♣ 842

SOUTH
♠ Q94
♥ KQ6542
♦ 85
♣ 73

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥ 1 ♣
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.
You don't have to have the right hand to beat a contract. Sometimes, making declarer think you have the right hand is as good. Your senior scribe held the East hand many years ago in a European tournament.

North-South reached the reasonable contract of four hearts. Note North's raise on a doubleton—South almost surely held six hearts for his auction, so the jack-ten represented excellent support.

West led the king of spades, and from East's vantage point the prospects looked bleak. He could see that

Aquino panel plans probe in Japan, Taiwan soon

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The five-member panel investigating the assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino plans to move its inquiry to Japan and Taiwan later this month, the panel's chief counsel said Saturday.

Attorney Andres Narvasa said in a telephone interview that the fact-finding board has received indications the Japanese government is willing to conduct its own inquiry with the board sitting as observers.

Mr. Narvasa said he and Bienvenido Tan, an attorney assigned to handle questions from the Filipino public, hope to suggest questions to the Japanese investigators on the killing of the chief rival of President Ferdinand Marcos.

"They will be in control, but they may not know what to ask," Mr. Narvasa said.

Officials from both Japan and Taiwan earlier turned down a board request to conduct hearings in those countries.

The Japanese said it would be a violation of national sovereignty. The Taiwanese, who do not have formal diplomatic ties with the Philippines, raised similar objections.

Several Japanese reporters were on board the China Air Lines plane that brought Mr. Aquino to Manila where he was shot to death.

Shultz begins 4-day visit to Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz flew into Rio de Janeiro Friday at the start of a four-day visit to Brazil, third stop on his Latin American tour.

He spends two days in this picturesque seaside city before going on to capital Brasilia for talks with Brazil's veteran Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro.

Mr. Shultz flew from Caracas, where he attended the inauguration of new Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi and made a strong attack on the record of Nicaragua's left-wing government.

He told reporters at Rio de Janeiro Airport that there was little immediate prospect of a thaw in

U.S.-Nicaraguan relations. Dialogue was carried out at diplomatic level and by means of messages passed by third parties — "mostly disinformation," he said.

He and Mr. Saraiva Guerreiro will sign a memorandum of understanding on industrial and military cooperation, U.S. officials said.

Brazil's vast foreign debt, fast approaching \$100 billion and the largest in the developing world, was also expected to be on the agenda. Mr. Shultz said the Brazilian debt was "in pretty good shape" at present.

He will also review with Saraiva Guerreiro the reports of five working groups, which have been examining various aspects of relations between the United States and the giant Latin American nation of 125 million people.

Relations between the two countries cooled in 1978 when the Carter administration barred sales of nuclear technology to Brazil. But ties have recently become much warmer and U.S. officials said the two were on the way to co-operation in a number of nuclear fields, though fuel and reactor sales are still banned.

Mr. Shultz will pay a courtesy call on President Joao Figueiredo before leaving on Tuesday for the Caribbean island of Grenada, the last leg of his tour.

Sri Lankan leaders call for unity

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan leaders Saturday called for national unity as the island marked its 36th independence anniversary in an atmosphere dampened by recent bloody ethnic violence.

"We must realise that we are a multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-lingual nation, and that we must forge lasting links of brotherhood among all of us," said President Junius Jayewardene.

Some 400 people were killed and 100,000 made homeless last July when majority Sinhalese attacked minority Tamils in the worst crisis the island has faced since gaining independence from Britain in 1948.

The country's 2.5 million Tamils, out of a total population of 15 million, say they are discriminated against and are demanding a separate state. A national conference to discuss ways to ease racial tensions is now underway.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, in an independence day message, said that Sri Lanka could only be developed if the hatred and suspicion with which groups now view each other "are totally eliminated from our minds."

National unity was also the theme at special religious ceremonies in Buddhist temples, mosques and churches at dawn Saturday.

The anniversary was celebrated with a military parade at Kalutara, 47 kilometres south of Colombo, at which Mr. Jayewardene took the salute in front of a large crowd.

The 77-year-old president said his government, which came to power in 1977, had tried to bring

about economic and social improvements for the people.

"Our successes since then, though great and worthy of pride, have been marred by disastrous failures caused by terrorist activity, communal antipathies, violence and our own mistakes," he said.

A Tamil guerrilla movement, fighting for a separate state in the northern and eastern provinces, has been blamed for the killing of some 100 politicians and security personnel, attacks on government establishments and bank holdups during the past six years.

About 2,000 prisoners will have their sentences reduced by a presidential amnesty granted to mark the anniversary, the Justice Ministry said.

Prime minister says agitators giving India 'bad name'

TINSUKIA, India (AP) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, facing statewide road blockades in violence-torn Assam, said Friday she would not resume talks with anti-immigrant agitators and condemned them for giving India a "bad name."

"They have a lot to answer for, the violence and the bad name India has got" the 66-year-old leader told the Associated Press during her visit to the northeast state where demonstrators are protesting settlers from Bangladesh.

For the first time, the prime minister said she no longer was interested in resuming negotiations with agitators. She said the deaths of several thousand people in clashes last year had made the situation "difficult for any discussions" with Assamese protesters.

"If they have anything to say, they can meet the (Assam) state officials," the prime minister said.

Talk with the central government broke off in December 1982 over Assamese demands

that 1961 be the cutoff date to identify illegal settlers from Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan.

Mrs. Gandhi took her battle against leaders of the Assam Civil Disobedience Movement into the public Friday in a whirlwind tour of the tea growing region.

In speeches across the state, she repeatedly said spectre of national disunity has become India's gravest problem because of "irresponsible agitation."

Mrs. Gandhi ended her first day's tour by Soviet-style Indian built MI-8 helicopter by addressing a mass rally of more than 50,000 at Tinsukia, about 800 kilometres northeast of Calcutta.

Nearly half the 150,000 residents, mostly immigrant settlers, turned up, eyewitnesses said.

An estimated 3,600 people were killed in clashes, massacres and other violence in Assam since February 1982, over the immigration issue.

For the last four years, student-led groups have been campaigning to disenfranchise and expel more than one million immigrant set-

tlers. They say native Assamese are being swamped culturally and economically by an unchecked influx of Bengali-speaking refugees across the border over many years.

Mrs. Gandhi's government held several rounds of talks with the All-Assam Students Union and People's Struggle Council, spearheading the economically crippling protest.

Talks broke down in late 1982 over the insistence of the two organisations for expulsion of all refugees who entered since 1961, a decade before the date fixed by the government.

Assam erupted in violence early last year after Mrs. Gandhi called for controversial state elections. The government has conceded that more than 3,600 people were slain in the three-month carnage.

Hundreds of villages were set afire and nearly half a million people made homeless during the upheaval.

"A lot of water has flown in (Assam's) Brahmaputra River

since then," Mrs. Gandhi said. "I know how terrible I felt at the killing of large number of innocent people. As a mother, I know what it is like," she told the Associated Press.

The prime minister said, "the sad thing is that the action of a very few persons affect a very large number of people."

Asked how the Assam crisis could be resolved the government declined to take the initiative in reopening talks with the protesters, she said. "It is for the people of Assam to wake up and decide what is good for them."

Meanwhile, riot police clashed with Assamese youth blockading highways at several places in the state on Friday. According to state police as many as 350 people were injured and 300 detained.

Gauhati, Assam's main city and headquarters of the Anti-Immigrant Movement, observed the day-long general strike to protest Mrs. Gandhi's arrival.

The protest paralysed activity with thousands of paramilitary troops patrolling virtually des-

erted streets.

The prime minister began her tour by laying the cornerstone of Assam's new state capital, Pragjyotishpur, 575 kilometres northeast of Calcutta.

The Pragjyotishpur rally was attended by less than 8,000 people, many of them children, despite aggressive efforts by government officials and police to roundup largely immigrant crowds by buses and trucks.

After opening a village project for the rehabilitation of children orphaned in the violence in Manganidol region, Mrs. Gandhi was greeted by a "people's curfew" on arrival in the town of Nowgong.

Mrs. Gandhi's rallies, Friday were heavily guarded by rifle-wielding police and paramilitary forces. The Assamese agitators, who had called for boycott, did not attempt to disturb her public meetings.

The road blockade is scheduled to end Saturday after Mrs. Gandhi makes her last speeches in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur areas.